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Iraq

Commenting on the second anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August, AL-QADISIYAH said "Kuwait has been Iraqi throughout history, and Iraq has never relinquished it." The paper went on to say that "Kuwait is historically and geographically an Iraqi town on the coast of the Gulf, a natural extension of al-Basrah Governorate, and an Iraqi window on the sea." Baghdad radio noted that "on this day in 1990, his excellency the leader president led the greatest historic epic in the contemporary history of Iraq, one that was crowned with the immortal victory."

Israel

Damascus is sending "signals" that it is interested in "doing business" with Israel on a peace agreement, HA'ARETZ disclosed. Syria is reportedly asking for an "explicit and public" Israeli statement endorsing UN Resolution 242 and the land for peace formula "in the context of the Golan Heights," according to political sources cited by DAVAR.

Palestinian Affairs

The PLO criticized a Jordanian House of Representatives statement on the Palestinian question for "ignoring" the PLO and "failing to mention" the organization as the "legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the JORDAN TIMES disclosed 2 August.

Afghanistan

Tehran radio reported that on 2 August Kabul was subjected to "severe rocket and artillery fire" which resulted in "dozens killed or wounded." Tehran TV reported that Defense Ministry sources accused the mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami of firing the rockets. In another development, Public Health Minister Najibollah Mojaddedi, son of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, resigned his post to protest "interference" in the affairs of his ministry by goverment officials, according to Tehran radio.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Disowns 'Cadres' Statement as 'Dirty Trick'

LD0208190892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Aug 92

["Text" of statement issued by "Fatah cadres in Jordan" on 2 August]

[Text] Our pioneering movement, the Fatah movement, detonator of the contemporary Palestinian revolution on 1 December 1965 and incubator of the revolutionaries and mujahidin, has been subjected since its inception to many conspiracies—military, political, and security. This is an attempt by the enemies of all orientations and inclinations and their (?quartermasters) to bring this revolution and its backbone, the Fatah movement, to its knees.

Fatah, however, with its leadership, cadres, and elements, and with the masses rallied around it, has wrecked all these conspiracies one by one on the rock of the movement's unity, foundation, and loyal adherence to principle. Therefore, the apparatus of the Zionist Mosad and its various agents have come out under great banners with a statement claiming to have been issued by Fatah cadres following what they called a meeting of a group of Fatah cadres—without saying where and when it was held—in which they inserted a lengthy, unsigned list of names known to be cadres in the movement. The statement was addressed to the sons of the Fatah movement inside and outside the occupied homeland, in all positions, and wherever they may be, casting doubt on the leadership of this movement and its decisions.

The Fatah movement, its leadership, cadres, and elements, whether inside or outside the occupied land, constitute a solid entity that cannot be harmed by such a dirty trick being played and supervised by the apparatus and agents of the Mosad. The brother cadres whose names were contained in this exposed trick have full confidence in their pioneering movement and their alert leadership, which does not distinguish between the humble and noble or between the (?lean) and fat, and they are all as one behind their leadership, headed by the brother president and commander in chief, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. This new method of conspiring against our revolution and movement will fail, as has every hateful and sly method. Our movement will always remain the pioneering movement in all its directions at the various military, political, and social levels.

Intifadah Command Issues Call No. 85

JN0208180192 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 92

["Text" of Call No. 85 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Call, call, call. No voice rises above the voice of the intifadah; no voice rises above the voice of the people of Palestine; the people of the PLO.

Call no. 85 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] in the state of Palestine; the call of unity and steadfastness.

Our Palestinian masses of the valiant intifadah, makers of the epics of national struggle from Gaza to Janin: Our blessed intifadah is ushering in a new phase of its life, baptized with the blood of our virtuous martyrs, the heroes of the battles of Marj Bin-'Amir and Ya'bad of al-Qassam. It ushers in a new phase hardened by the steadfastness of our people and their unyielding resolve to pursue the revolution until the realization of our people's just objectives of freedom and independence.

Heroic masses of our people: [words indistinct] the first accomplishments made by your gigantic intifadah that shattered the dreams of the advocates of Greater Israel and the prospect of their control over our people and their land. The fall of Shamir's government represented the first step down the road of defeating occupation and forcing the rulers of Israel to acknowledge the national rights of our people. The continuation and escalation of the intifadah are bound to force Shamir's successor, Rabin, the innovator of the bone-breaking practice, into playing with words and phrases in the interest of preserving the occupation of our people's land. The UNLI declares that his attempts to fool our people and discourage them from pursuing their legitimate rights to freedom will prove fruitless.

Militant masses of our people: The UNLI followed with interest the decisions of the recent 20-22 July meeting of the Palestinian leadership. The UNLI declares that if the new Israeli government is serious about a fair peace that meets the legitimate national rights of our Palestinian people—as enshrined in UN resolutions calling for withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem—it must forthwith halt all settlement activity and land confiscations and stop resorting to such tricks as drawing a distinction between security and political settlements. Such a practice only aims at retaining control and occupation of the land. The new Israeli government must come out for a comprehensive settlement, end all violations of international agreements and conventions, and comply with UN resolutions as the underpinnings of a just peace and a prelude to complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory and assurance of the right of return and Palestinian self-determination and statehood.

As UNLI underscores the resolve of our people to keep striving for a fair settlement along with all Arabs, it also emphasizes the need for a united Arab front and for all energies of the Arab peoples to be summoned in the interest of toppling the Likudist agenda, which the Rabin government is trying to implement even after it has been proven untenable and after the departure of the Shamir government. It also emphasizes the need to overthrow Rabin's illusory policies regarding settlements and the autonomous council that only seek to obtain U.S. loan

guarantees and complete harmony between U.S. and Israeli stands, and all that this entails in political and electoral terms.

The UNLI notes with satisfaction the Arab foreign ministers meetings in Damascus, which viewed Rabin's ugly policies as another face of the Likud government. The UNLI also notes that the Damascus meetings did not endorse the demagogic balloons released by Rabin.

The review undertaken by the Palestinian leadership of the state of national Palestinian unity, with the objective of unifying ranks and developing a national Palestinian strategy through comprehensive dialogue involving the entire spectrum of Palestinian thinking, must be primarily based on keeping the valiant intifadah alive, developing its militant program of act on toward a still greater cohesion with the will of our people and their determination to secure their rights to freedom and independence. To advance these objectives, UNLI stresses the importance of adhering to Palestinian national unity—the unity of the masses and their militant forces—and waging war against attempts to undermine this unity. It also stresses the need to work out problems and differences through nonviolent democracy. The UNLI would like to voice its anxiety over some of our people being drawn into attempts by the enemy to depopulate our land when they consent to leave the land for extended periods of time. It would like to impress upon our people the need to exhibit caution and alertness, and to reject such attempts vigorously. The UNLI stresses the necessity of observing the opening and closing times of commercial businesses and heeding calls for general strikes. Only restaurateurs and keepers of picnic grounds are required to observe fixed hours of operation—whether during the morning until 1500 or during the evening from 1300 to 2000. They have to put up conspicuous signs indicating their hours of operation through the end of September 1992.

The UNLI calls on our popular masses to show moderation in their expressions of joy during wedding ceremonies, and discourages the blowing of car horns and driving of noisy vehicles on such occasions. It calls on strike forces to make sure these instructions are observed.

The UNLI warns hirelings who have offered their services to the municipality of Teddy Kollek [words indistinct] our masses and returning the tax on their property to the UN Relief and Works Agency. We call on our masses in the Jerusalem area to refrain from cooperating with them.

The UNLI reiterates the need to observe the boycott of Israeli goods that have national alternatives. The UNLI appreciates those families that show genuine magnanimity in handling tribal matters, and in this regard singles out the family of Abu al-Hasan from Yamun for its stand toward the return of displaced members of the al-Qutayfat family—this is typical patriotic behavior. The UNLI calls for supporting the role of reconciliation committees and nurturing this spirit as a model for tackling our problems and ironing out our differences.

The UNLI reaffirms its solidarity with the Iraqi people as they stand up to attempts to humiliate and blackmail them, and condemns the continued iniquitous embargo. The UNLI declares its rejection of the [word indistinct] policy and calls upon the international community to shoulder its responsibility by forcing Israeli compliance with UN Security Council resolutions. The UNLI denounces attempts to humiliate our people coming across the bridges and calls for exposing these inhuman practices and [words indistinct].

UNLI condemns the assassination of hero struggler (Hazim 'Id) during his interrogation in Hebron Prison. It calls on the international community and humanitarian institutions to condemn this crime, which expresses an official policy of the Israeli Government toward our strugglers.

UNLI calls for the implementation of the following activities:

—To consider the first week of August as a week for unique activities to enhance national unity, which all forces and sectors will carry out by escalating confrontations with occupation authorities and settlers, by inscribing national slogans, and by pursuing all activities of the general call.

—Sunday, 9 August, should be a comprehensive day of strike to mark the intifadah entering its 57th month.

—Thursday, 13 August, should be a day of general strikes in the city of Jerusalem to protest the continued policy of plundering and terrorizing by the Teddy Kolek municipality under the canopy of the so-called (al-Irnuna) tax, which seeks to uproot our people from their land and confiscate their property.

—Sunday, 16 August, will be a day of solidarity with our people's detainees in the Negev and other Zionist jails on the anniversary of the assassination of two of our strugglers in the Ansar 3 Camp.

—On 21 August, we call on our people throughout the Palestinian territory to proceed to the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque to perform Friday prayers on the 23d anniversary of the crime of setting fire to the first of the two qiblas and the third holy mosque.

—Monday, 24 August, should be a day of general strike in solidarity with the hero fugitive intifadah activists in reaffirmation of our people's support for, and rallying around, their steadfastness and confrontation of the Zionist death squads and the unjust rulings made against them in absentia. On this occasion, UNLI appeals to all hero fugitive activists to abide by the Palestinian fedayeen code of behavior, be alert to Zionist methods, and avoid press interviews, particularly with the Zionist press, which might jeopardize their lives.

On 29 and 30 August there will be a week [as heard] of activities against the occupation. Businesses will remain open throughout the day on 8, 14, and 23 August. We will inevitably triumph. It is an intifadah until victory.

PLO—Jordanian House Statement 'Not Appreciated'

JN0208070492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 92 pp 1, 5

[By Nermin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday expressed dissatisfaction over a Jordanian Parliamentary statement on the Palestinian problem saying it failed to mention the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and did not go far enough in calling for an independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

In a statement distributed to the press Saturday, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, pinpointed these points of contention between Fatah, the mainstream faction in the PLO and Hamas, the military wing of the Muslim Brotherhood movement. But he also attempted to soften the Palestinian response to the House's statement. The PLO "is convicted that the Jordanian Lower House... adheres to the fact that the organisation is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim said.

"Ignoring the PLO and failing to mention that it is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people was not appreciated, especially since many parties are now seeking to undermine the PLO and its role in the peace process," Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim said. But he added that the PLO assumes that dropping a mention of the PLO in the House's statement had "happened inadvertently."

However, a Muslim Brotherhood deputy, Hamam Sa'id, rejected this assumption and said that the House planned not to mention the PLO "but not out of lack of respect for the organisation or as a way to attack it."

Mr. Sa'id, an Amman deputy, said the House, which represents several schools of thought, "could not all possibly adopt the same view of the PLO or the Arab governments."

"We hope that our words are not understood as undermining the organisation or calling for an alternative," Mr. Sa'id said Saturday. "It is only a democratic expression of the need to put their house in order."

A member of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks told the Jordan Times that while he accepted the democratic expression by the House "we will not accept the guardianship of anyone."

"The Palestinians should open their minds to all kinds of criticism from any Arab quarter because our problem has Arab and Palestinian considerations, but the final decision will be up to us," said the delegate, who asked for anonymity.

He said that the Palestinians had finally established a "healthy atmosphere of reaching a Palestinian decision based on Palestinian interests."

"For many decades we made the mistake of allowing the Palestinian decision to be dictated by a higher Arab decision. Now the situation has changed and what is happening now is healthy," he said.

He warned against Palestinian sensitivities towards any input by Arabs on the Palestinian issue "because we do not want to make the same mistake in reverse."

"All Arab forces, popular or otherwise, have the right to say what they think," he said. [passage omitted]

In his statement Saturday the Palestinian ambassador said that the PLO "recognises the positive points which were mentioned in the House's statement, especially those which outline the Palestinian and Arab foundations of negotiations."

"But it wants to draw attention that the dropping of the PLO's name as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and not mentioning the establishment of a separate Palestinian state and the right of self-determination prompted the PLO to express its dissatisfaction," he said.

PNC Rebuffs Jordanian Parliament Statement

JN0108102592 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Aug 92 pp 1, 16

[Text] Tunis, WAFA—The Palestine National Council [PNC] has rejected a statement by the Jordanian House of Representatives, issued Thursday, in which the House rejected any solution aimed at liquidating the Palestine question.

A Palestinian information spokesman said in Tunis that the PNC rejects such interference by the Jordanian parliament in Palestinian affairs. The source added that brotherhood and national, religious, and pan-Arab duties dictate that the brothers in the Jordanian parliament or any other Arab body should communicate their views through customary channels and at the common sessions of the two fraternal delegations to the joint delegation and in other joint meetings.

The following is the text of the statement:

The Jordanian House of Representatives issued a statement. In addition to its flawed wording, the statement establishes a precedent in the history of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, as it is considered negative interference in internal Palestinian affairs.

Our national Palestinian councils and the PLO leadership were and continue to be eager to maintain positive, fraternal, and cordial relations with sisterly Jordan—its

king, government, and people. The Jordanian House of Representatives has issued this statement at a time when Jordanian-Palestinian ties are being bolstered and Arab stands are united against the Israeli enemy's schemes in the name of regaining the Arab and Palestinian lands, rights, and holy sites.

Before raising questions about the real purposes of such an action, the Jordanian House of Representatives should know that the negotiations are not conducted only by the Palestinian delegation. They are conducted by a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that achieved major accomplishments that contributed to the isolation and downfall of Shamir's government. Moreover, intensive meetings are held in a regular fraternal manner at the highest levels to draw up the joint delegation's policy, in addition to the positive Arab meetings with our Arab brothers who are participating in the bilateral or multilateral talks.

The PNC rejects such interference by the Jordanian parliament in this Palestinian affair. If our brothers, whether in the Jordanian parliament or any other Arab body, have a certain viewpoint, they can relay it through customary channels and at the common sessions of the two fraternal delegations to the joint delegation and at other joint meetings as dictated by brotherhood and national, religious, and pan-Arab duty.

The PLO's march—enriched by the blood of hundreds of thousands of righteous martyrs and the sacrifices of those wounded, taken prisoner, and detained during 28 years of ceaseless, persevering struggle on all fronts—deserves further backing and support for our demands as presented by the Palestinian delegation. We are pressing for a comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and all Arab issues, including respect for Palestinian and Arab rights, and especially the issue of holy Jerusalem. The Jordanian deputies have for many years now been aware of the hostile schemes in the Arab and international arena that the PLO confronted firmly and for which it paid and continues to pay a dear price on all levels and with increasing numbers of martyrs, wounded, and prisoners, led by the ranking members of the Palestinian leadership. It was this revolution, led by the PLO, which kindled and continues to kindle the road of martyrdom to holy Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, the first of the two qiblas and the third holiest place, the site to which Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, made his midnight journey, and the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him.

We hope that everyone will be responsible during this critical stage in the Arab nation's life and work for further Arab cohesion and solidarity following the crises and divisions from which our nation has suffered and because of which the Palestinians have paid the heaviest price.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Then fight in Allah's cause—thou art held responsible only for thyself—and rouse the believers. It may be that Allah will restrain the fury of the unbelievers; for Allah is the strongest in might and in punishment. [koranic verse]

Al-Husayni Acknowledges Invitation to Peace Talks

LD0208190492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Brother Faysal al-Husayni reports that the Palestinians have officially received an invitation to participate in the next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks in Washington 24 August-23 September. Brother Faysal al-Husayni, who arrived in Amman from Tunis last night on his way back to occupied Palestine, added: If settlement activity is clearly frozen without any distinction between the political settlements and the security settlements and if constructive measures are taken to build confidence, we will try to remove obstacles to completing the Palestinian representation from within and outside.

He also indicated that Palestinians will work together toward negotiating the transitional period where the link between the land and man and the final period will be established and will lead to an independent Palestinian state. He added: We regard legislative elections as one of the best ways to set up transitional power. He said: Palestinians await the next round of negotiations to discover Prime Minister Rabin's stand and to see what he means by political and security settlements and whether they are meant to lead him out of the impasse or to draw us into the impasse.

Al-Husayni also pointed out that his visit to Tunis falls within the framework of routine meetings with PLO officials.

Syria and Israel have already announced that they received official invitations to participate in the sixth round of negotiations.

Algeria

Belaid Government Discusses Plan of Action

LD0308075492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The government's plan of action was the focus of the first meeting of Mr. Abdesselam Belaid's government before the plan is submitted to the Higher State Council. At yesterday's meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of Abdesselam Belaid, members submitted the broad lines of their ministries' plans of action. A joint ministerial group was also formed to follow up the government's plan of action and to submit it at the next meeting of the council of government.

The head of government issued a number of directives; they concerned the regaining of the state's prestige and the confidence of the people in themselves and the state. He urged, furthermore, members of the government to swiftly carry out the most urgent work in order to deal with the most vital social needs and to combat all dubious forms of obtaining public service and property.

The head of the government urged members of the government to guarantee the stability of their ministries and their cadres as long as the latter are firmly working for the implementation of the activities planned by the government.

Mr. Abdesselam Belaid focused, in his address before the government, on security issues, which are a paramount necessity for the inhabitants and a condition for fulfilling other social needs. He pointed out the need for all concerned services, individuals, administrations, and institutions to oversee the issues in a harmonious manner. The above was included in the statement issued following the meeting of the Council of Government yesterday, Sunday.

Islamists Accused of Plotting Against State

LD0208222192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Sixteen Islamists, including four presumed members of an armed organization, have been accused of plotting against state security or of carrying prohibited weapons in several of the country's towns. According to the gendarmerie, the armed organization El Kitab oua Essouna is in the process of being totally dismantled after the arrest nine days ago of Chakendi Abdelkader, its presumed head, who was arrested on 25 July.

Security Forces 'Succeeded' Against Armed Groups

LD0208224592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Security services have succeeded in the past two days, with the cooperation of citizens in the region of El Oued, in paralyzing the activity of two armed groups made up of 30 individuals in this area. Well-informed sources in Ouargla have indicated that the members of these two gangs belong, according to the preliminary elements of the investigation, to the Armed Islamic Movement [Al Haraka al-Islamiya al-Musallaha], and that they operated under the guise of a charity organization.

Policeman Killed by Unknown Assailants in Algiers

LD0108170192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] A security source from Algiers province police station stated that a policeman was shot dead today by unknown assailants near Algiers International Fair, east of the capital. The attackers stripped the policeman of his weapons and communications equipment. The Algiers province police station sources have not said how many aggressors there were.

Second Policeman Killed

LD0108223192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Excerpt] A source at the capital's security headquarters affirmed that a police officer was killed this evening by bullets fired by two unidentified men in the old Kouba district of Algiers near the teachers' school. The same source said that the victim was riding a motorbike of the police corps when he was killed. [passage omitted]

Sabotage Hits Telephone Exchange Boxes in Tiaret

LD0108130792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Last night, at the same time and in the same style, four sabotage operations were aimed against four telephone exchange boxes in Tiaret Province.

Our correspondent in Tiaret sent this report.

[Correspondent] Between 0030 and 0300 today, criminals executed a sabotage operation of four telephone exchange boxes in Tiaret Province.

We point out that the operation, which attacked three exchange boxes in the Tiaret Provincial Hall and one box in Ain Bouchekif, was carried out at the same moment and in the same style.

For your information, that operation spread terror in citizens when a fire erupted in one of the boxes located near the electricity distribution substation.

On hearing of the news, the director of the provincial postal and telecommunications system hastened to mobilize a technical team to start repairs. The director said the repairs would take a long time because of the seriousness of the damage.

Until the repairs are completed, half of the citizens of Tiaret city will remain isolated.

[Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1200 GMT on 1 August in a similar report adds: "In the city of

Maghnia in Tlemcen Province, a traditional bomb exploded this morning near a postal and telecommunications cooperative. The explosion did not cause any casualties."]

Attack on Chebli Exchange Reported

LD0108223592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Posts and telecommunications installations remain subject to acts of sabotage. The latest of these acts was aimed at the new telephone exchange for Chebli Municipality. This center, which lies 20 km east of Blida City, was set on fire at dawn today, posts and telecommunications sources say. According to the same sources, the attack of arson left significant losses at this center, estimated at 12 million Algerian dinars. It is worth pointing out that the Chebli telephone exchange includes 1,000 telephone lines, but has not yet become operational.

Egypt

Musa, U.S., Russian Envoys Discuss Multilaterals

NC0208161592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1237 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Robert Pelletreau and Russian Charge d'affaires Nikolay Tikhomirov. After the meeting, Musa stated that a new round of Arab-Israeli talks will begin on 24 August and continue for four weeks. He noted that a new round of multilateral talks about the Middle East will begin in mid-September in several countries. He stated that the U.S. ambassador and the Russian charge d'affairs notified Egypt of these developments.

Musa stated that he and the U.S. ambassador discussed issues relating to the bilateral and multilateral talks and the contacts that followed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent visit to Egypt and other regional nations.

Pelletreau stated that the meeting dealt with the outcome of James Baker's successful tour of the region and regional developments.

Tikhomirov stated that he submitted proposals to Musa about the date of the multilateral talks, due to begin in September. He stated that the fourth round of the negotiations will be held at the beginning of the new year.

Daily Views U.S. 'Policy' To Divide Iraq

NC0208064392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2106 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Reports citing sources in the U.S. State Department recently maintained that the United States will recognize a Kurdish government in northern Iraq.

The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM comments in its editorial for tomorrow about this subject. It writes that this policy goes against what the United States and Western nations have announced repeatedly: that they do not intend to divide Iraq. If such reports are true, they would reflect a dangerous change in Western positions on Iraq and the entire region. The process of actually dividing the existing countries will not stop at Iraq's borders, even if it just starts with Iraq. It will open the gates of hell upon the region, creating further tension and instability.

AL-AHRAM adds that the major powers' positions on Iraq's Kurds must be straightforward and equal to their positions on the Kurds of Turkey and Iran, that the Kurds' situation should be determined by their direct interaction with their societies. Otherwise, agreement should be reached on the right to self-determination for all under international supervision. To have Iraq alone liable to division and experimentation is unacceptable and confirms that all Arab countries are targets of possible division schemes.

The paper adds: If the reports CNN broadcast citing U.S. State Department sources are untrue, this would reflect an attempt by this network to propagate the idea of dividing Iraq and create a trend toward such a move.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM writes: If the U.S. State Department issues a statement about its position regarding this issue, it certainly would remove any confusion or vagueness that might have arisen following the recent reports.

Final UN Battalion Leaves for Zagreb 1 Aug

NC0108100292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0727 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—The second and final group of the Egyptian battalion participating in the UN peacekeeping force in Sarajevo left Cairo for Zagreb this morning on board a British Royal Air Force plane carrying UN markings. The group, comprising 184 officers, noncommissioned officers, and men, was seen off by Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasr and several other high-ranking Armed Forces officers. [passage omitted]

Staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Mun'im Mahmud Mahdi, commander of the departing group, said it will arrive in the Sarajevo area by land this evening or tomorrow morning, Sunday, to join the first group that left Egypt last Monday [27 Jul].

He announced: Our mission is one of peace, not combat, but the force is equipped to defend itself against direct assault. If we come under artillery attack, we will inform the UN Forces Command, which will give instructions to the forces operating under it. [passage omitted]

Daily Compares Yugoslav 'Crisis' to 'Palestine'

NC0208084392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR writes in its issue to be published tomorrow that the conspiracy being devised during the London meeting, which they [not further identified] claim is to help the parties to the Bosnia-Hercegovina conflict, brings to mind the tragedy of Palestine's division, in which the major powers participated by imposing the infamous division resolution that split Palestine into two states: one Arab, one Jewish. This issue since then has sparked all the catastrophes in the Middle East.

The paper adds that the strings of the new conspiracy were revealed in a bizarre proposal, the objective of which is to split up the small, predominantly Muslim state into three parts or cantons among the Serbs, Croats, and Muslims. They claimed this is a favorable solution for resolving the crisis and ending the massacre in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which has continued for months, when in fact the alleged solution will be the last nail in the coffin of the only republic with a majority of Muslims in the Balkans.

The paper wonders where the Muslim world was when this happened, this Muslim world which prefers to observe like a spectator the extermination threatening this small group of Muslims and the obliteration of all aspects of their lives. How long will this shameful silence continue?

AL-AKHBAR concludes by saying it fears the end of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina will be similar to what happened to the Palestinians after the farce of division that benefited only Israel.

Spokesman Cited on Weapons of Mass Destruction

NC0108094392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2106 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Egypt has stressed the need to remove all types of weapons of mass destruction and for every country to comply with this measure before signing the draft international (?agreement) on eliminating chemical weapons, recently endorsed by the Geneva conference on eliminating chemical weapons.

In statements to the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published on Saturday, Naji al-Ghatrifi, the Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, said it is not sensible for a country or group of countries to be deprived of a particular type of weapon of mass destruction, research into it, or production, while one Middle East country is the only one to possess another type.

He added that Egypt's position about the need to free the Middle East of all types of weapons of mass destruction stems from this principle.

He noted that what applies to (?every regional country) on weapons of mass destruction also applies to Israel, because it too is in the region.

Commenting about the outcome of the Geneva conference, he said that, to be fair, there should be no distinction among the various types of weapons of mass destruction, and no type should have priority over another.

The Geneva conference endorsed a draft international agreement to ban the proliferation of chemical weapons and to eliminate them in 10 (?years).

The agreement is expected to be signed at a conference in Paris in January in the presence of several heads of state.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Pays Visit 1 Aug

Invites Mubarak to Nonaligned Talks

NC0208164492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2122 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Abdullah Alatas arrived in Cairo this evening from Geneva on a two-day visit to Egypt.

Upon his arrival, Alatas said that he comes to Cairo on a special mission as an envoy of Indonesian President Suharto. He added that he is carrying an invitation to President Husni Mubarak to attend the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit, scheduled to be held in Jakarta in September.

He said he will use this opportunity to hold talks with Foreign Minister Musa about issues of interest to the nonaligned countries, international developments, and the role the Nonaligned Movement can play in this crucial and critical stage of contemporary history.

He added that there are positive developments as well as difficult problems in the world today.

Alatas said that the nonaligned summit will give members the chance to strengthen ties among member states and affirm the movement's role in participating effectively in world events.

Foreign Minister Musa, who greeted Alatas at the airport, said he will discuss with the visitor all the issues on the agenda of the next summit, as well as the measures we can take to help the causes of the Third World and nonaligned countries.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0834 GMT on 2 August carries a follow-up report about Alatas' visit that says: "President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace today. Foreign Minister Musa and Indonesian Ambassador to Egypt Abdulrakhman Jayaprawir attended the meeting. Following the meeting, Musa welcomed the Indonesian minister and reported that he conveyed an invitation to

President Mubarak from Indonesian President Suharto to attend the Nonaligned Movement's Summit in Jakarta from 1 to 6 September."]

Departs Cairo 3 Aug

NC0308075192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas left Cairo this morning after a two-day visit. He said he conveyed a message from Indonesian President Suharto to President Husni Mubarak, inviting Mubarak to the nonaligned countries' 10th summit.

Alatas praised Egypt and President Mubarak's role in the efforts to preserve the Nonaligned Movement's goals and principles.

He noted that the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina is regrettable and that action is needed to stem the bloodshed there and find a peaceful solution.

Chief Editor Criticizes 'Corrupt' Iranian Regime

NC3107120092

[Editorial Report] In a 2,500-word article on pages one and eight entitled "Try Another Game" in his "Political Stand" column in AKHBAR AL-YAWM on 25 July, Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah lashes out at the "corrupt ruling regime in Iran," the only concern of which is "to export its corruption and non-Islamic revolution to any country that has diplomatic relations with it."

Sa'dah begins by saying: "The Iranian Government pleased us by severing its relations with Egypt after late President Anwar al-Sadat's time." By so doing, he adds, the Iranian Government spared us its evil intentions, its historic hatred of Arabs, and its Persian ambitions in Arab lands.

"A follower of the Iranian Government's 'achievements' since the fall of the shah will certainly be shocked by the regime, which tries to put on the Islamic mantle [Yatamassah bil Islam], while nothing it does has anything to do with Islam." He points out that the Iranian approach to dealing with other states is "absolutely unsuitable for civilized states," adding that "it can only work with gangs and highway robbers."

The chief editor points out that the best way to learn about the "tragedy of the Iranian people" is to read Amnesty International reports rather than the published views of those "who visit Iran on open invitation and are received with official hospitality and presented with valuable gifts."

Sa'dah asserts: "The threat this regime poses to Arab lands and peoples has not diminished or ended. It grows and becomes more serious daily." He adds that the current Iranian regime is no less greedy than that of the shah, who had ambitions "to control Arab land and oil." He contends that the only difference between the two regimes is in the "tactic rather than the goal."

The writer is surprised that journalists should insist on asking Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa when normal diplomatic relations will be resumed betweeen Cairo and Tehran. He remarks, however, that such a question is justified because "hardly a week goes by without a statement being attributed to official Iranian talks about 'ongoing' contacts between the Egyptian and Iranian Foreign Ministries to pave the way for an agreement on resuming relations between the two countries." He asserts that the Egyptian officials are the most surprised at these statements because "the contacts the Iranians are talking about never took place."

He affirms that Egypt has not asked Iran to resume relations, mainly because "the ruling Iranian regime severed relations with Egypt, using the Camp David Accords with Israel as an excuse." He says that throughout the years the two countries were estranged, "Iranian-Israeli relations flourished as never before." Hence, the writer says, it is Iran who should request resuming the relations it severed with Egypt.

Sa'dah remarks that whenever an Iranian statement refers to alleged contacts with Egypt to restore relations, a "new contradictory Iranian statement surprises us the next day, asserting that relations with Egypt will not be restored while Egypt is determined to maintain its peace accords with Israel."

The editor cites one such statement, published by Egyptian media without comment. He notes that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry refused to comment on the statement because it "understood the gimmick and lost interest in it and knew the goal." He adds that Iran's JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI the next day published a statement by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Besharati, in which he said: "Until now, no decision has been made to restore relations with Cairo; Iran adheres to its earlier stand on Egypt." Moreover, the writer adds, ETTELA'AT published an article by former Foreign Minister Larijani in which he said the current conditions do not justify normalizing relations with Egypt and that only time will tell whether Egypt is capable of exerting pressure to reach a new, collective Camp David. Only then, Larijani says, can Iran decide to restore relations with Egypt.

In a sarcastic remark, Sa'dah says: "It is now the corrupt Iranian regime that decides when to cut or restore relations with Egypt, as if the Egyptian people and Government have no other preoccupation but to restore relations with a terrorist regime that does not respect international resolutions."

Chief Editor Sa'dah wishes "the terrorist government, which stifles its people and deprives them of their basic rights and freedoms, would publish a single proof that Egypt had asked it—verbally or in writing—to restore relations." He asserts: "That terrorist regime does not have the evidence to substantiate its false statements," adding that the issue is merely an excuse to "slander

Egypt, its political leadership, and its people, because they pose the only threat that can destroy their goal of swallowing up the neighboring Arab lands, wealth, and people."

Sa'adah contends that Iraq constituted an Arab power that could have ended those ambitions. Had it not been for the shallowness, ignorance, and foolishness of the Iraqi president, Iran would have failed to drag Saddam Husayn into the bottomless pit of a war that cost him half a million Iraqis and hundreds of billions of dollars, he says. "Instead of learning from the Iraq-Iran war, Saddam surprised us by occupying Kuwait, with blatant and definite Iranian encouragement," Sa'dah writes.

The writer points out that Iran is the only power that can still pose a threat to the Gulf states now that the Iraqi power has been destroyed. He notes, however, that the Iranian regime is not as naive as the defeated Iraqi one, because it learned the Gulf war lesson very well. "It learned that military power will not lead it to the goal of devouring the neighboring Gulf states" and it also learned that the approach that could serve this end is exercising terrorism, attracting allies, mounting threats, and planting agents lured by temptation, rewards, and long stays in the "famous five- star hotels."

Noting that the Iranian regime has made considerable progress in that field, Sa'dah points out that Egypt is "the only major Arab power capable of checking the Iranian infiltration of Arab territories." He says the Iranians are slandering Egypt and its government with or without reason.

The writer recalls that the Iranian regime thought that by hosting and showing generosity to a hired Egyptian journalist, it could overthrow the Egyptian regime and present it as prey to the ayatollahs. Failing this, he continues, they tried to attract the leaders of an opposition party who are ready to sell themselves to any regime, even one that is hostile to their homeland and people. "Again the Iranian regime's dreams and fantasies were shattered because it surrendered itself to mercenaries and swindlers who represent only themselves and their own interests, swindlers whose greed is insatiable," Sa'dah says.

Sa'dah points out that Camp David—"the only fragile weapon the Iranians are using against us"—is no longer effective; the Arabs have finally understood the significance of the accords—"too advanced for Arab mentality" at the time. "The Arabs have finally agreed on the soundness of the miracle Egypt has achieved for the Palestinian cause," and their only hope now is: "To turn the wheel of history backward so that the Palestinian people can obtain 'some' of the gains they could have obtained if 'Arafat had been more farsighted and loyal to the cause by approving the Camp David Accords," he maintains.

The writer remarks: "The ayatollahs in Tehran want to appear more royal than the king," by lamenting Palestine, as if it is their land and as if the Israelis—"their closest friends"—are their enemies.

He concludes that Tehran's assault on the Egyptian leadership and policy no longer concerns the Egyptians because its ultimate goal is no longer a secret. He advises the "corrupt ayatollahs" to "try another game."

'Masterminds' of Upper Egypt Violence Arrested

NC0108115492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1117 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—A responsible state security source in Alexandria told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I newspaper that security forces captured extremists likely to have been responsible for the recent violence in Upper Egypt's southern governorates. They were arrested in three Alexandria areas.

Among those arrested were Sabir Hamzah, a prominent Islamic Group official in Qina Governorate in charge of planning and supervising the group's special operations. A group of prominent members of the organization, including Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan and Mansur al-Bardawili and three leading officials of the Sudanese National Islamic Front and the Islamic movement in Jordan, was captured with him.

The security source added that the security forces were conducting surveillance targeting several individuals wanted for suspected involvement in some political and criminal offenses when they received information that several Islamic Group members were frequently visiting several apartments in three Alexandria areas and holding meetings at one of the city's most important mosques. This mosque is considered an Islamic Group stronghold.

Another security source in Alexandria told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I that between 20 and 25 people were arrested, including 15 prominent Islamic Group members in Qina and Aswan for whom arrests warrants were issued. Some of them participated in planning violent acts against tourists in Luxor three weeks ago.

The arrested individuals are considered the masterminds behind most of the recent incidents. He added that the arrested Sudanese and Jordanian individuals are members of the Islamic movements in their countries. They have contacts with the Egyptian Islamic Group for coordination purposes.

The security source revealed that the arrest of the leading officials of these extremist groups was made possible by information gathered by the security agencies in Qina from suspects arrested in the wake of the recent violence. These suspects said that their orders came from Islamic Group leaders who use furnished apartments in Alexandria as headquarters where they plan their terrorist operations.

The appropriate agencies are carrying out the necessary measures to refer the newly arrested individuals to the prosecutor's office in Qina.

Plan To Assassinate Public Figures Revealed

NC0208172992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Investigations by security agents revealed that members of the extremist organization detained in a furnished apartment in Alexandria the day before yesterday planned to assassinate a number of public figures. In addition, they planned to create disturbances in population centers and tourist areas to create panic and disrupt security in Egypt.

A responsible source at the Interior Ministry said that the security agencies found important documents on the 20 members that indicated that they were planning on disrupting security and launching terrorist acts. The source said that the extremists fled from various governorates in Upper Egypt after the security forces tightened the noose around them in recent antiterrorist operations. Eleven of the detainees are from the Qina and [name indistinct] Governorates. One of the suspects rented a furnished apartment to serve as a meeting place to plan future operations.

The source emphasized that the security agencies succeeded in monitoring the extremists' movements through ambushes and surveillance of their meetings and communications. The security forces raided their Alexandria apartment at dawn yesterday and captured all members of the organization. There were a number of extremist leaders among the detainees, many of whom participated in the recent violence in Luxor and Upper Egypt. A Jordanian and a Sudanese were among those arrested. The foreigners are being interrogated in an effort to learn the scope of the terrorist plan and the relationship the group has with other extremist groups in Sudan, Jordan, and other countries that support activities of this kind, which disrupt Egyptian security and stability.

The source noted that approximately 300 extremists who participated in recent violence were detained in the Qina Governorate. A search is under way for four boys whom the extremists used to attack tourists in Luxor.

Instigatory Pamphlets Found

NC3107120292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 1

[From the AL-WAFD office in Asyut]

[Excerpt] Security agents found explosives and pamphlets on the roof of a mosque in the village of Bani Yahya, Asyut, the day before yesterday. The pamphlets call for the assassination of high-level officials who participated in drafting the antiterrorism law. The pamphlets say that the law is specially tailored to combat Islam. The explosives and pamphlets were discovered while security agents were conducting a search in the villages of Dayrut district to find the culprits who shot a policeman standing guard at al-Islah church in Bani Yahya. [passage omitted]

Article Views Anti-Terrorism Legislation

NC3107164092 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Jul 92 pp 1-2

[Article by Jamal Badawi: "We Cannot Confront Terrorism With Legislation Alone"]

[Text] The government has entered the arena of combating terrorism through legislation, submitting to the People's Assembly a draft law amending the penal, criminal procedures and secret accounts laws, hoping that this will be enough to combat terrorism instead of enacting a special law for that purpose. Deputies heavily criticized the draft law, some of the speakers fearing that the harsh penalties would be misused for other purposes. They said the draft law includes vague and ambiguous terms and clauses that give the authority an opportunity to repress its adversaries, thus threatening public liberties, foremost of which are personal freedom and freedom of expression.

But all these voices were in vain. As expected, the Assembly vote approved the amended law after making very minor changes. Following their publication in the official gazette, these amendments will become a new reality that will impose itself on our lives. It will be added to the multitude of other penal laws that the government believes are enough to achieve internal stability and social peace and to combat terrorism.

Since when has legislation been an effective weapon in combating terrorism?

The emergency laws imposed on us for more than 10 years have not stopped the tide of terrorism. Assassinations, assassination attempts, sabotage, and destruction—the likes of which Egypt never saw in bygone eras—have occurred under these laws. The same period even saw an increase in the tide of terrorism, which has attracted large numbers of youths in schools and universities.

While it is important, the weapon of legislation and harsh penalties will remain an auxiliary one, not an all-potent weapon, as long as the motives and conditions that hatch and spread terrorism remain. The tide of terrorism will continue to attract the young as long as they suffer from a political, cultural, and religious vacuum; as long as they see the road to participating in building their homeland closed to them; and as long as political and party activities are banned in universities and confined to the state outside the universities. Egypt's youth open their eyes to a bitter reality that daily confirms that they are undesirable, a burden on society,

and that they should think of emigrating to an alternative homeland that offers a tougher life and job opportunity, however menial. With such anxiety, it is natural for the young to fall prey to loss, unemployment, boredom, and terrorism.

The terrorism phenomenon is not only a security issue, as some believe; it is also the result of the dissolution that has afflicted society in the past 40 years. It is the natural outcome of political corruption, social injustice, autocracy, absence of true democracy, and trading with slogans.

Terrorism in Egypt cannot be confronted with legislation alone.

Confronting terrorism and achieving stability require the state to take stock and to look to its conscience so that it can give up its selfishness and monopoly on power, break the people's isolation, and give it the right to self-determination and the expression of its real will.

The people have no role in what is going on all around it. The people do not go to the ballot boxes; do not participate in partisan activiti?s; do not form parliamentary assemblies that falsely assume the people's name and leave everything to the government. The result is this predicament the price of which we are paying and which is threatening the entire Egyptian society, its fate, security, and unity.

Impotence, paralysis, and negative behavior on political action.

Action, movement, and vitality in terrorism.

Our lives have become like an upturned pyramid, its apex in the ground and its base in a vacuum. It is a situation that will inevitably lead to dissolution, fragmentation, explosion and splits, and will fragment Egyptian society.

We are entering a very black phase. Forces hostile to Egypt are planning and plotting to fragment Egypt and implement the scheme drawn up by very clever brains that want to make the region a bunch of ethnic, religious, and sectarian dwarfs around greater Israel. Weapons are coming to us from hostile countries through friendly and fraternal ones, as Dr. Yusuf Wali said in Asyut. These weapons are not meant for bird hunting, but for turning Egypt into a bloodbath.

The tide of terrorism is monopolizing the arena in the absence of popular and democratic forces and parties of the masses. Let there be a lesson for you, o those who have brains.

Columnist Advocates 'Direct' Presidential Elections

NC0108152892 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 18

["Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] I would have preferred it if the National Democratic Party Congress had not decided to leave the process of choosing the members of the political bureau to President Husni Mubarak. I wish the political bureau were elected at the congress in free, direct elections, as happened in democratic countries. The British Labor Party members elected the new party leader through the party's members of Parliament in a secret ballot. Mr. Smith was not the only candidate; there were three. The same thing will happen at the Conservative Party conference. In the United States, the Democratic Party convention elected the party leader. The Republican Party will hold a convention shortly to elect the party's presidential candidate.

I wish the election of the National Democratic Party leader would be done by secret ballot instead of by the raising of hands. I am even confident that Husni Mubarak would get all of the votes.

I also think that if genuine presidential elections were to take place and 10 candidates were to run against Mubarak, he would get an absolute majority. I know that no one wants to compete against Mubarak. The job of president is not an easy one. The Presidency is a big responsibility and demands prodigious efforts. President Mubarak did not need election by acclaim. He needs direct, free elections in which the people can express their views. Mubarak will then see that free elections are more beneficial to him than a referendum.

The Presidency is a duty, not an honor. It is not just a post or a job; it is hard work. It requires a lot of experience. It is a sacrifice, not a luxury. It requires the people's confidence and faith more than it requires self-confidence. It demands a patient person, one who can tolerate criticism and respect the views of others. With all these requirements, I would vote for Husni Mubarak. I wish I could select him from among several candidates in direct, free elections.

I hope that the next time I vote for him it will be in elections, not a referendum.

Libya

Egyptian, Sudanese Hala'ib Dispute Criticized

LD0108172292 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The last couple of days saw an escalation in attitudes between the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments as a result of the dispute over the Hala'ib region.

An official spokesman for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry stated that the Sudanese Government should be held responsible for hinting that it was going to take different [word indistinct] to settle the dispute over the Hala'ib region between Sudan and Egypt. The spokesman said that Egypt will resort to reciprocating likewise. The

spokesman was responding to remarks attributed to the Sudanese deputy foreign minister on 26th Nasser [July]. The spokesman described the remarks as contradicting an old accord stipulating that the region in dispute was an integral part of the Egyptian territory.

JANA's editor for Arab affairs called for rejecting all acts that may cause differences between the Arab countries and avoid turning transient differences into disputes that may deepen the gap between the Arab people. Also, the editor called for resorting to dialogue and settling disputes between Arabs within an Arab framework. He warned that any escalation in the tension between any two Arab countries will not serve the unity of the Arab nation. But it will only benefit the objectives of the historical enemies of this nation that was behind planting such problems between the Arabs to turn them into mines and time bombs to be detonated according to their plans.

The editor pointed out that removing tension on the so-called border issues between Arab countries will not happen, except by removing borders themselves and realizing the united Arab state and the fraternal bonds and historical relations that always linked Egypt and Sudan as one country will encourage resort to this course in which Arab interests lie. [sentence as received]

Foreign Liaison Secretary, Afghan Minister Meet

LD0208203492 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met with the Minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowment of Afghanistan, Shaykh Arsala Rahman [as heard], who is visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. The meeting focused on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, as well as issues of common interest. During the meeting, the Afghan minister expressed the Afghan people's thanks and appreciation to the people and leader of the Great Jamahiriyah for supporting the cause of the Afghan people.

Five Officers Seek Political Asylum in Italy

NC0108132292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1254 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Paris, 1 Aug (MENA)—The Paris-based Arabic magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI disclosed that five low-ranking Libyan officers fled to Malta at the end of last week and from there traveled to the Italian capital, where they requested political asylum, provided they are allowed to travel later to the United States.

In its latest issue, the magazine, citing sources in Rome, reported that one of the officers, First Lieutenant 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad al-Khuwaylidi, hails from Tripoli and is a relative of Muhammad al-Khuwaylidi, a former ambassador and head of protocol at the Libyan Foreign Ministry following the al-Fatih revolution in September 1969. The magazine, quoting the same sources, added that the five deserters were on leave when they fled and that they boarded a speedboat from Valetta. The magazine added that a first lieutenant pilot fled 10 days ago with his MiG-23 from the [word indistinct] base to Crete, where he requested political asylum.

Sudan

Reasons for Closure of Tunis Embassy Disclosed

EA0108080092 Khartoum SUNA in French 0925 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Jul (SUNA)—The first under secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ali Muhammad 'Uthman Yasin, has announced that the Sudanese Government has decided to close its embassy in Tunisia for reasons connected with the redistribution of Sudanese diplomatic missions in accordance with the importance of relations and common interests.

He specified further that unjustified attacks against Sudan by the Tunisian media were also behind the closure of the Sudanese Embassy in this country. He said that Sudan had officially informed the Tunisian Government of the decision that had been taken.

[Khartoum SUNA in English at 0956 GMT on 31 July adds in another Khartoum-datelined item: "The Sudan has decided to close down its Embassy in Tunis for reasons related to the redistribution of the country's diplomatic representation in accordance with the importance of joint relations and interests, Foreign Ministry's first under-secretary, 'Ali Muhammad 'Uthman Yasin announced. Yasin, in a statement to SUNA Thursday [30 July], said other reasons behind the decision were connected with the bad treatment to which the Sudanese national [as received] crossing the Tunisian territories are subjected, as well as the unjust and baseless campaign being waged by the Tunisian mass media against the Sudan. The Tunisian Government was officially notified with the decision, Yasin added."]

Delegation Returns From 'Successful' Iran Visit

EA3107131592 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 29 Jul (SUNA)—Brigadier Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of culture and information, and his accompanying delegation, returned to the country on 28 July from Iran after a three-day visit.

In a press statement, his excellency said that he delivered a letter from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, to the Iranian president, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during the visit. He [Sulayman] indicated that the visit had aimed at activating the bilateral relations between the two countries in different fields.

His excellency said the visit was successful, and that it had achieved its objectives. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Closure of Khartoum Embassy Discussed

LD3107221192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] We have learned from an authoritive Foreign Ministry source that the Tunisian Government made numerous contacts and efforts with the Sudanese Government to persuade it to stop adopting hostile stands against our country and to stop the persistence of its official information organs in waging hateful and prejudiced press campaigns to harm Tunisia's dignity and national symbols. The efforts were also aimed at stopping Sudan from its blatant interference in our internal affairs.

It is worth mentioning that the Tunisian Government constantly drew the attention of the Sudanese authorities to these unacceptable practices. During various contacts between the officials of the two countries the Khartoum government refrained from pursuing its policy and removed the causes that had led to tension in the relations between our two countries and to recalling the Tunisian ambassador to Khartoum on 6 October 1991. It affirmed its desire to normalize relations with our country.

However, all those promises and undertakings were nothing but mere ink on paper. They were in conflict in actual fact with the practices and the incitement to violence, sedition, and interference in Tunisia's domestic affairs. This is a glaring violation of the two resolutions of the Islamic Conference Organization and the OAU. The resolutions were unanimously made and call on member-states not to allow their territory or governmental organs to be used by individuals or groups operating for the purpose of insulting other Islamic or African states.

In the face of this situation, the Tunisian Government has decided to close its embassy in Khartoum. It announces once again that it is always eager to establish the best relations with fraternal Arab and Islamic states. It works for spreading accord among them, but it has found itself compelled to make this decision while taking into consideration the responsibility of the Sudanese Government for the deterioration in the relations between the two countries.

President Makes New Ministerial Appointments

LD3107190792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met at Carthage Palace this morning with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, who announced following the meeting that the president has decided to appoint Hedi Mehni as minister of public health, Mohamed Fadhel Kheili as minister of social affairs, Monji Safra as secretary of state to the prime minister in charge of scientific research and technology, Salah Hamdi as secretary of state to the minister of national economy in charge of trade, and Ali Chaouch as secretary of state to the minister of public health.

Kuwait

U.S. Statements on 2 Aug Anniversary Noted

LD0208124792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] 2 August, (KUNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney today affirmed the need for the Saddam regime to completely obey UN Security Council resolutions while Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Colin Powell lauded the bravery of the Kuwaiti people.

This was contained in two statements by the American officials to the Kuwaiti newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT, and published today on the occasion of the 2 August anniversary.

In his statement, Cheney voiced the pride of the American forces in taking part in defeating and expelling Iraqi aggression from Kuwait.

He said: "I am proud also that the U.S. Defense Department is actively taking part in rebuilding Kuwait since the return of freedom to Kuwait."

He added that despite the fact that the period between August 1990 and March 1991 was terrifying to Kuwait, "Your liberation has confirmed that peace-loving nations can actually build a more secure world."

The U.S. secretary of defense called for avoiding a false sense of security, affirming that "the peace and welfare of our two countries still call for collective defense."

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, congratulated the Kuwaiti people on regaining their country and restoring security, stability, and confidence.

In his statement, he called for not forgetting the martyrs and those who lost their lives from all the countries of the alliance defending the freedom of the Kuwaiti people, which was nearly usurped.

General Powell saluted the bravery of the Kuwaiti people and the bravery of the alliance armies in their stand in the face of tyranny.

He said that the United States and other members of the United Nations immediately hastened to rescue Kuwait in the name of freedom and sovereignty when the forces of Saddam Husayn, two years ago, committed their brutal aggression against Kuwait.

He emphasized that the complete defeat of the aggressor was due to the bravery of the Kuwaiti people and the military impregnability of the alliance.

He pointed out that "the attempts of unjust hegemony have become a matter that cannot be tolerated."

He concluded by emphasizing the value of alertness and power represented by the patriotic tendency in the sovereign countries.

Prime Minister on Readiness To Defend Country

LD0108201492 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] His Highness the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, said today that the government has set up an emergency plan to confront all possibilities and developments that may emerge from the continuation of the Iraqi regime's rejection to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions.

In his meeting with the editors in chief of the Kuwaiti newspapers and magazines, His Highness the crown prince and prime minister said that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces are on full alert to defend our beloved country, stressing that the protection of the Kuwaiti security and defending its existence and sovereignty are the top priorities, explaining that contacts are underway with the friends regarding all developments that may threaten our country.

His Highness the crown prince and prime minister also said that all developments taking place these days in this vital region of the world came as a result of the stubbornness of the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad and his rejection to comply with UN resolutions. His Highness the crown prince and prime minister said that the Iraqi regime is still prevailing his aggressive intention through its official statements which represent a clear violation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

His Highness also called on the Kuwaiti people to be cautious and fully alert so as to confront those aggressive intentions and to protect and defend their motherland.

His Highness the crown prince and prime minister added that the Kuwaiti people and government will never forget the positions of those Arab countries and regimes who lent support to the Iraqi regime during its occupation of Kuwait and the persecution of her people. His Highness said it is not easy for us to forget torture, executions, and other crimes which the Iraqi regime had committed on the Kuwaiti soil and those who had directly or indirectly supported it.

His Highness the crown prince and prime minister also asserted that the ordeal of the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti POW's and detainees still being held in the Iraqi regime's prisons is the main concern for the government, pointing out that one of the major assignments given to the emissaries of His Highness the Emir who are touring several parts of the world was to underline the need for implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, notably those which call for a quick release of those POW's and detainees.

Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah also denied that there is an intention to postpone parliamentary elections scheduled for October, adding that the elections will be carried out on the same date which was set by His Highness the Emir.

On border demarcation between Kuwait and Iraq, His Highness said that placing boundary landmarks is expected to commence in September and will continue for four months. In the meantime, the UN committee entrusted with border demarcation will resume meetings in October.

Saudi Arabia

Press Reports 'Improvements' in Ties With Iran

LD0208133392 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Athens, Aug. 2, IRNA—A leading Saudi weekly reports that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia are to meet during the coming three months following improvements in bilateral relations.

The meeting would follow other meetings between Rafsanjani and other leaders of the Persian Gulf Arab states, weekly AL-MAJALLAH said.

AL-MAJALLAH in its last week's issue published a lengthy report on Saudi-Iranian relations, written by 'Ali Nuri Zadeh, with cover-page photos of Rafsanjani and Fahd under the title "at last after 13 years of tense relations, return of Iran for cooperation with Saudi Arabia."

"Sources close to Rafsanjani think that the Saudi-Iranian rapprochement is the real key for Iran to enter the (Persian) Gulf club first and then the Arab and Islamic club," AL-MAJALLAH noted.

The Arab weekly acknowledged it was Iraq that had launched a military attack against Iran, but did not mention that Riyadh had given billions of dollars to the regime of Saddam Husayn during the Iran-Iraq war.

AL-MAJALLAH examined the situation in Iran under Rafsanjani and praised his policies as 'pragmatic'.

Prince Bandar Meets With Iraqi Opposition

LD0108204192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, Saudi ambassador to the United States, conferred yesterday evening at the embassy in Washington with leaders of the Iraqi opposition, at the latter's request. The Iraqi opposition delegation, which is currently visiting the United States, includes Mas'ud Barzani, Jalal Talabani, Salih al-Shaykh-'Ali, Arif 'Abd-al-Razzaq, Layth Kubbah, and Muhammad Bahr al-'Ulum.

Prince Bandar Bin Sultan conveyed to the members of the delegation the support of the Saudi Government and people for the fraternal Iraqi people, the government's commitment to those people, good wishes, and hope for prosperity for those people.

His Royal Highness prays that God will remove the suffering and injustice to which the Iraqi people are exposed as a result of the actions committed and being committed by the tyrant Saddam Husayn. His Royal Highness offered a tea banquet at the embassy in honor of the leaders of the Iraqi opposition.

Saddam Inaugurates Scientific Exhibition

JN0208195692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1802 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] With the joy of a farmer who watches his plants grow straight, which pleases the farmer and with which God irks the infidels; with the joy of an educator who finds that the generation he is nurturing has grown up in mind and has started to enjoy good manners and beneficial knowledge and to spread these things to others; with the joy of the builder who sees a building rise high in the open air and that all demolition attempts are smashed at its feet; with the joy of the struggler on whom God bestowed the blessings of seeing the outcome of the jihad abundant virtues and overwhelming goodness to all people; with overwhelming joy and with Saddam Husayn's official and warm affection for his zealous sons, the leader president today inaugurated the comprehensive exhibition held by the Nuclear Energy Authority to mark the 24th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution under the slogan: Scientific Research in Service of Development and the Society.

Those who raised this slogan were true to their promise, and the leader president—may God protect and guide him—found before him great achievements forged by the Iraqi mind, conscience, sense, and arms in this authority which is closely linked to the people's development objectives.

His excellency paused to ponder the accomplishments that have taken place in record time. The people's leader dwelled on what actually has been accomplished and is of service to the citizen and which he can now use, and on what good men and women are working to complete which, with God's help, will materialize in the not-too-distant future.

The leader president reviewed at the beginning the accomplishments in the field of agricultural research. His excellency was briefed on developments in the food industry in terms of Iraqi agricultural production and the successes that have been scored in the field of new by-products derived from Iraqi agricultural yield.

His excellency the leader president also was briefed on the achievements attained in the field of land reclamation with the minimum cost and material used, the development of the fertilizer industry, and of special pesticides to eradicate blights.

Scientists and experts have affirmed that the blockade imposed on our country has motivated them to wage this battle and to achieve magnificent results in it by making these products from purely local Iraqi agricultural products. The leader president also was briefed on the successes attained in the field of developing new breeds of agricultural crops, particularly wheat and barley.

The president leader noted that Iraqi experts have succeeded in developing some products from the local environment and purifying this environment from pollution at the same time.

Talking jokingly to workers, his excellency the leader president said that the United Nations currently is working to prevent Iraq from continuing its efforts to protect the environment. The leader president then recalled the great accomplishments scored by Iraqi minds in the field of inventing and manufacturing medicines. The leader president noted how those among senior U.S. Administration officials and its Western and Zionist allies professing to be advocates of human rights have failed to supply Iraq with a prototype for a special epilepsy drug which weighs only five kg. It is an irony of fate that this decision was adopted in the name of the United Nations and its legitimacy, he said.

His excellency the president added. Somebody might think that the media represent only a radio broadcast, a television transmission, motion pictures being used, or an article being published in a newspaper. This issue, the issue of the failure of the so-called allies to supply Iraq with five kg of a prototype to be used for the production of an epilepsy drug, could serve as a major story to show all the sins committed by these insincere advocates of human rights. Thus, media reportage is a process to which everybody is a party.

His excellency the president instructed that the manufacture of Iraqi medicines adhere to a priority system that takes into account the needs of the majority of Iraqis, or the types of medicines required for curing certain diseases that cause a considerable measure of human suffering.

The Iraqi scientists and experts promised to provide the citizens with the basic requirements of medicine, using Iraqi raw materials.

His excellency the leader president then viewed the pavilion devoted to the gold-plating of metals and the pavilion devoted to decorative materials, which were missed by our national industries owing to the unfair blockade imposed by the enemies on our people. Afterward, his excellency the leader president was briefed on special efforts made to improve the quality of gasoline; the production of safety glass; the production of annealed ceramics; the production of electrical equipment and appliances; the production of devices used for sterilizing medical equipment; and the production of devices and equipment required for laboratory analysis.

His excellency the leader president—may God protect him—then toured a pavilion devoted to computer programs and teaching aids for his beloved ones, the Iraqi children. He instructed that the computer systems be used in civic education and the pan-Arab upbringing of future generations.

His excellency the president also viewed special programs regarding traffic regulations, medical services, and engineering projects. The workers showed his excellency the leader president a system that allows them to retrieve his excellency's speeches and statements.

At the end of the tour, his excellency the president—may God protect him—experiencing extreme feelings of jubilation, commended the scientists and experts, as well as the technicians and administrative personnel assisting them, from among the glorious male and female Iraqis.

His excellency the leader president was received, escorted, and seen off by Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, minister of higher education and scientific research; Staff Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; and Ja'far Diya' Ja'far, under secretary of the Ministry of Industries and Minerals.

Ramadan—Nation Has 'Thwarted' U.S. 'Schemes'

JN0208201692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and vice president, has relayed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the masses of the subdistricts of al-Iskandiriyah and Jurf al-Sakhr in Babil Governorate. Vice President Ramadan also communicated to them his excellency the president's pride in the honorable nationalist position taken by the party strugglers and chivalrous tribes in confronting the agents and hirelings during the chapter of treachery and treason.

During a meeting with comrade members of the commands of the groups of al-Iskandiriyah and Jurf al-Sakhr, which are subunits of the Babil Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, attended by Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Euphrates party organizations, the vice president said: By rallying around the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqis have thwarted all U.S. schemes, which used the provocations carried out by the international inspection team as a pretext to humiliate Iraq and its steadfast people.

Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, accompanied by Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Euphrates organizations, also visited the groups of al-Muthanna and al-Sadah, which are also subunits of the party's Babil Branch.

During the two visits, the vice president affirmed that the Ba'thists' militant history is replete with heroic feats. He indicated that nowadays all Iraqis are standing firmly and relentlessly, forging ahead in their courageous struggle against imperialist powers attempting to undermine Iraq's security and sovereignty.

On the other hand, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and vice president, accompanied by Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Euphrates organizations, also visited al-Najaf Governorate. There he met with senior cadres of the al-Najaf party branch.

During the meeting, the vice president affirmed that the current phase requires the preparation of a resurgent Ba'thist army that draws on the principles and heroic feats of leading Ba'thists, led by comrade leader Saddam Husayn's resoluteness and strength, given that they inscribed militant epics that took the form of the great July and Ramadan revolutions, relying on God and the firm Ba'th doctrine.

The vice president urged party cadres to continue the national mobilization, as spelled out in the speech leader President Saddam Husayn delivered on the 24th anniversary of the great 17-30 July revolution. He paid tribute to the Iraqis' enthusiasm and readiness to defend the security of dear Iraq.

For their part, the comrades members of the al-Najaf party branch affirmed during the meeting that Iraqis, including the sons of al-Najaf Governorate, will remain alert to safeguard the revolution and its gains. Furthermore, they vowed to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal and to defend Iraq and its (?chaste) nation.

Moreover, during a meeting today with administrative cadres in al-Najaf Governorate which was attended by al-Najaf Governor Karim Hasan Rida and the comrade secretary and members of the al-Najaf party branch, Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan called for doubling and mobilizing efforts in the agricultural and industrial fields to defeat the unfair blockade imposed on dear Iraq.

During the meeting, the vice president listened to a detailed explanation presented by the governor on the activities and services being rendered by the governorate, namely the services rendered as well as the work currently under way in the agricultural and services fields. He also was briefed on services rendered to citizens in the governorate in implementation of the instructions issued by the political leadership, led by leader President Saddam Husayn.

Ba'th Official on Victory Over U.S. 'Arrogance'

JN0208150392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Command's Foreign Relations Bureau, has affirmed that Iraq's foiling of the U.S. Administration's objectives, which were manifested in the inspection teams' provocative acts, is a victory for national and free will and a defeat for Bush's arrogance and impudent threats against Iraq.

During a meeting with officials from professional and popular organizations in Wasit Governorate, the Iraq Command member added that the Iraqi people, under His Excellency struggler President Saddam Husayn, have thwarted, through their heroic steadfastness, imperialist-Zionist attempts to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and dignity.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Party's Iraq Command, also met with party cadres of the al-Kut Section Command. Wasit Governor Qa'id Husayn al-'Awwadi and the comrade secretary and members of the party's Wasit Branch Command attended the meeting. He urged party cadres to continue their sacrifices and to confront the enemies' conspiracies, as well as the arbitrary resolutions the U.S. Administration resorts to from time to time.

Press Marks 2d Anniversary of Invasion of Kuwait

Terms Kuwait 'Usurped Part' of Iraq

JN0208105892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Iraqi newspapers have stressed that Kuwait has been Iraqi throughout history, that it is still Iraqi, and that Iraq has never relinquished, regardless of the nature of the political regimes which ruled it.

In their editorials on the second anniversary of the Day of the Call, 2 August, the papers said that Kuwait has always lived in the hearts and minds of the Iraqis who have faith in their territorial integrity. On the glorious Day of the Call, an historic opportunity, which removes obstacles between the motherland and the usurped part, was seized.

The papers explained that the 2 August battle was a battle with a comprehensive humanitarian message and on whose field values, principles, and calls were produced that made peoples far from the region adopt the ideas—whose banner was carried by Iraq and its great leader Saddam Husayn—about resisting double standards in international relations, calling for the redistribution of wealth, rejecting subservience to others, defending the right to obtain science and technology, and to rebel against the centers of the new international hegemony.

Under the headline "The Great Day of the Call and the Mighty Historic Action," the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says: Iraq will continue to stand fast and to be lofty. The great Day of the Call will continue to be a bright expression of the mighty historic action to realize right and eliminate falsehood.

It adds: The Iraq of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and of the eternal Mother of Battles is impregnable and possesses all elements to be steadfast and to foil all the conspiracies that are encroaching on its dignity and national sovereignty. At the same time, it is capable of adhering to its national and historical rights.

The paper explains that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait does not mean that it has relinquished its historical rights. Kuwait has been Iraqi throughout history, and Iraq has never relinquished it, regardless of the nature of the political regimes that ruled it.

It says: Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait exposed the plotting against Iraq and the targeting of it even though, through the continuation of the unjust economic blockade over the past two years, the continuation of the U.S. threats to Iraq, the flagrant interference in its domestic affairs, and the efforts to fragment it, it has not entered Kuwait to correct an historical mistake.

Under the headline "The Eternal Day of the Call," AL-THAWRAH says: The Day of the Call will continue to exist as long as Iraq exists. It is part of Iraq's policy, firm resolution, and the strong faith embodied by the leader of the call and the knight of the Mother of Battles, Saddam Husayn, who sounded the alarm of awakening in the entire nation.

It adds: The eternal Day of the Call is getting stronger. Every year, it expands further and deeper into every Arab and human mind and body. It serves as a reminder of history and rights, and as a reformulation of Arab awareness during the stage of its revolutionary transmission from the elite to the masses. It also serves as a final elimination of all false slogans.

The paper adds: On 2 August, Iraq led the nation, along with all its honest and poor people, to itself, to its rights, and to its role. For the first time in its modern history, the nation was united in its awareness and objective. It is now living through the time of the this full fact. It can see all the traitors of the nation in the swamps of Hafar al-Batin, humiliated with their mercenary armies under the U.S. flag, which cannot conceal the Israeli flag.

The paper adds: This is how our nation has lived, under the banner of jihad and under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the time of the truth whose great seeds were implanted in every Arab mind, conscience, and will, which was confirmed in a scene where glory and tragedy were mixed together when Baghdad was the target of hundreds of thousands of planes and missiles, when Tel Aviv was a clear target for al-Husayn missiles, and when the slave rulers approved the U.S.-Atlantic decisions.

Under the headline "The Glorious Day of the Call and Iraq's Eternal Territorial Integrity," Al-'IRAQ says: The great Day of the Call proved that right, regardless of how long it takes, will inevitably return to its legitimate owners and that blood is thicker than water.

It adds: The Day of the Call has come with an echoing sound from all directions of history. Over its waves flew the souls of Iraq's martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for the sake of expediting the return of Kuwait to the original spring, namely, lofty Iraq.

The paper notes: The glorious Day of the Call proved that the agents and the henchmen of the rancorous foreigner are the exposed enemies of the causes of the masses in Iraq and the Arab homeland, and that they are the impudent conspirators with the malignant foes of the Arab nation to carry out their evil schemes of dismembering the Arab countries and to establish weak and

racist tribal and sectarian entities and statelets which lack the pillars of a mature state.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The 2 August battle was a comprehensive humanitarian message whose field produced values, principles, and calls which made peoples far from the region adopt the ideas whose banner was carried by Iraq and its great leader Saddam Husayn about resisting double standards in international relations, calling for the redistribution of wealth and rejecting subservience to others.

The paper adds: The 2d of August has been awaited for more than 70 years in order to correct an historical mistake. It notes that this correction occurred later than its time. However, it must come under, all circumstances, to eliminate an encroachment on rights and to redress a deviation from the sovereign political power.

The paper stresses that the 2d of August 1990 was a comprehensive and direct battle at a point where it made the strongest and most treacherous superpower come to battle only to find that all its capabilities were insufficient against Iraq; consequently, it had to seek assistance from all its allies and satellites in a way unprecedented in the history of conflicts and wars in the world.

Concluding, the paper says: Kuwait will eventually return to its rightful owners. How and when? History will answer this question.

Hammadi: Kuwait Belongs to 'Motherland'

JN0208101392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Former Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi has stressed the need to explain the true nature of Kuwait and ignore the West's disinformation attempts and tendentious propaganda against Iraq.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH issued here today, Hammadi said that Iraq fought to realize the Arab nation's aims and historic goals pertaining to liberation, unity, and resistance to colonialism and Zionism.

Hammadi said that when Iraq emerged victorious from the war with Iran and rose as an economic and military power with influence in the region, the West began to seriously consider confronting it, connected with the present and future of the region by relying on its agents in the Arab region, including the rulers imposed on the Kuwait area. [sentence as received]

Hammadi noted that the plot began with the increase of oil production by bringing pressure to bear on OPEC and forcing it to issue decisions to this effect. When this was insufficient to harm Iraq, the same decisions were violated, as happened in July 1989.

Hammadi [word indistinct] the series of meetings with the rulers imposed on Kuwait and the Saudi and United Arab Emirates rulers and their oil ministers with the aim of fixing the production ceiling and increasing the oil prices, but all these meetings failed because they were submitting to their White House master.

Hammadi alluded to the conspiratorial telephone conversation between Saudi King Fahd and [UAE President] Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan during where they agreed to increase production and glut the world's oil market to affect prices and fight Iraq.

Hammadi added that Britain and the United States know the truth about Kuwait, that it belongs to the motherland, Iraq. They also know how they planted their agents, the al-Sabah family, to dismember and plot against the Arab nation.

Kuwait 'Iraqi Town' on Gulf Coast

JN0208113892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0807 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that what happened on 2 August was the national and pan-Arab answer to a national and pan-Arab call that had needed a response for many years.

In today's issue, the newspaper said that Kuwait is historically and geographically an Iraqi town on the coast of the Gulf, a natural extension of al-Basrah Governorate, and an Iraqi window on the sea.

The paper said: If the call by the free Kuwaitis was not answered in the past it was not because of lack of faith in the rightful return of the branch to the original tree but because there was no Arab leader who could respond to the call and fulfill this desire that had been dormant for decades.

The newspaper added that the true response of the Iraqi leader on 2 August was a strong and powerful answer to the imperialist circles' despicable plots which they left for their tools and puppets in the region to carry out.

The newspaper affirmed that the 30-state aggression against Iraq was only one in steps on which imperialism and Zionism pinned great hopes to subjugate Iraq, humiliate its people, and destroy its progress.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The Day of the Call on 2 August 1990 was not a fleeting day in the history of Iraq and the Arab nation but a beacon of light on the national and pan-Arab road of struggle. It will continue to tell the story of the return of the usurped Kuwaiti land to the great Iraqi motherland.

Invasion 'Greatest Historic Epic'

JN0208132492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The heroic Iraqis are today celebrating the 2d anniversary of the great Day of the Call, when the will of

goodness in both Iraq and the Kuwait area was united on 2 August 1990 under the banner of the historic and victorious leader His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

On this day in 1990, his excellency the leader president led the greatest historic epic in the contemporary history of Iraq, one that was crowned with the immortal victory realized through the entry of our valiant Armed Forces into the Kuwait area at dawn on 2 August. The epic was launched because the Kuwait area is a chunk of Iraqi territory cut out by the British in accordance with protection treaties, and also because of the conspiracies hatched by the al-Sabah dynasty, particularly the economic conspiracies they concocted against Iraq.

The al-Sabah dynasty, in coordination with the administration of criminal Bush, conspired against Iraq to inflict economic harm on Iraq. This dynasty stabbed their poison dagger in our backs instead of rewarding Iraq for its honorable position in defense of the nation and its security.

Iraq's historic step brought to minds the demands made by zealous Iraqis throughout history to repossess Kuwait, because it is part of Iraqi territory.

Kuwaiti Rulers 'Mirage' in Desert

JN0208133792 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 2, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily today said that the 30-state aggression against Iraq was launched with the aim of undermining Iraq's scientific and developmental revival, and not for the installed rulers of Kuwait.

In an analysis published today, the daily confirmed that the U.S. Administration was moving ahead with its aggression against Iraq and that it was seeking all routes to weaken its will and harm its people.

The daily added that Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah rulers had turned a deaf ear to Iraq's warnings and peaceful calls concerning the oil prices and production quotas, and instead they turned the region into permanent military bases for the United States and its allies.

It pointed out that the problem with Kuwait was not motivated by economic or border issues, but it expressed rejection of the injustice done to Iraq by the colonialist forces, particularly Britain which sought through its divide-and-rule policy to change Iraq's map by chopping off Kuwait to block Iraq's only access to the sea.

The paper concluded al-Sabah rulers were no more than a mirage in a desert, for Kuwait would remain Iraqi in affiliation, land and conscience.

Anniversary to Remain 'Immortal Day'

JN0208170292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has relayed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the residents of al-Ta'mim Governorate and the pride he takes in their courageous defense of great Iraq and its lofty national unity.

In an expanded seminar held in Karkuk today for heads and members of mass and professional associations and organizations in the governorate, the prime minister affirmed that 2 August will remain an immortal day—if not the dearest and most glorious day—in the psyches of Iraqis and of honorable Arabs, as well. He added: The return of Kuwait—a usurped territory—to the Iraqi motherland epitomized the Iraqis' firm national will, not to mention the fact that it allowed one of their dreams to come true. He asserted that the great and historic showdown of the eternal Mother of Battles represented a peak in the nation's glory and vindicated the pride of its good sons. This showdown, he maintained, removed the false masks used by those who professed to be advocates of Arab nationalism and Arabism.

In the seminar, which was attended by al-Ta'mim Governor Yasir Hasan Sultan and the comrade secretary of the al-Ta'mim Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the prime minister called for enhancing the relationship the organizations and associations maintain with the popular masses, as dictated by the need to forge firm national unity and build a prosperous Iraq.

For their part, the mass and professional associations and organizations pledged to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal soldiers in the revolution's march and to its independent course. They renewed their allegiance and loyalty to the symbol and leader, his excellency the struggler, President Saddam Husayn.

The artists of al-Ta'mim Governorate presented some tableaus, statues, and art drawings as gifts to leader President Saddam Husayn to express love for their leader and the pride they take in the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

Damascus Sending 'Trenchant Signals' to Israel

Interest in 'Doing Business' Seen

TA3107131492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jul 92 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "A Syrian Message to Israel"]

[Text] Damascus is dispatching trenchant signals to Israel. The signals are tempting, though not devoid of a hint of threat, as well as quite a few contradictions. It was reported last week that Aleksandr Zotov, the Russian ambassador to Syria, had made a brief, unusual visit to Israel; yet recently, there has been another visit by a person carrying a message from Damascus to several figures in Israel.

And the Syrian message, which came in the wake of the establishment of a new regime in Israel, can be summed up in the following way: We, the Syrians, are interested in doing business. Are you, the Israelis, serious in your approach to the negotiations for a peace agreement? The term business was not explained, nor was it stated whether it referred to compromise on the Golan Heights. The message's second implication: Do not think for a moment that Damascus will overlook the attempts to isolate it and remove it from the peace process. Syria will not consent to a Palestinian autonomy arrangement if it forced to remain outside. Yet, if accord is achieved between Israel and Damascus, the Syrians will be able to assist with both the Palestinian and the Lebanese issues. The third part of the message says that Israel should know time is pressing: Various negative forces are churning in the Arab world, and things that can be done today may very well become impossible tomorrow.

As for Ambassador Zotov's brief trip to Israel, I do not have any details on that, and I have been unable to find out what Israeli figures had received him. I had an opportunity to meet him in the past, and he is obviously familiar with what goes on in Syria and with what the Syrian upper echelons think. Zotov was the Russian diplomat who declared several years ago that strategic parity was not designed to provide the Syrians with counter-Israeli offensive capability, that the supply of Soviet weapons would be based on commercial considerations, and that no weapons would be given away free of charge. Zotov is convinced that al-Asad wants peace but will insist on retrieving every inch of the Golan Heights, as Egypt did in the Sinai.

Zotov may have been the messenger, but the unwritten message was not intended for Jerusalem alone. In this instance, the Syrian signal was also addressed—first and foremost—to Washington. Damascus wants to communicate its displeasure with the American handling and with Washington's attitude. The Syrians believe that while Damascus has made several gestures, such as joining the anti-Saddam coalition, showing up at the Madrid conference, and removing the restrictions on the exit of Syrian Jews, it has received nothing from Washington. The above is consistent with remarks on various occasions by the Syrian ambassador in Washington. According to this approach, Damascus should seek additional channels and send direct signals to Israel.

It is important to stress that these messages to Israel do not exactly correspond with the Americans' most recent impressions of Damascus. Despite the exit of the Shamir government, the Syrians have not revised their old stand. It is not true that they made new and encouraging observations to Secretary of State Baker during his last visit. Their representatives reiterated the declaration that first of all, Israel should withdraw from the Golan Heights, and only after that will the discussion of other issues be possible. If that is the approach, it cannot be the start of negotiations with Yitzhaq Rabin's government. In addition, the Americans are still uncertain whether the Syrians will be ready to implement the al-Ta'if accord by withdrawing from various parts of Lebanon in the near future.

An additional noteworthy factor is the absence of signs that Washington intends to remove Syria from the list of terror-supporting countries. Syria was part of the war coalition against Saddam Husayn, and its representatives attended the peace conference in Madrid, but since it continues supporting terror, since Syrian figures are seriously suspected of involvement in drug smuggling, and because human rights are still widely violated in Syria, the Americans believe that Syria deserves to remain on the black list of terror-supporting countries.

But despite all this, Baker told Rabin that Syria must not be alienated; instead, he should find out whether Damascus has embarked on the path to peace. The American explanations have already brought about a change in the prime minister and defense minister's manner of referring to the Syrian issue. He no longer says that Syria should be left for the end of the peace process, or that there is at present no chance to attain an arrangement with Syria. Rabin no longer speaks in terms of "not an inch" in the Golan Heights. He is now saying that Damascus should prove its intentions. We can expect the Americans to suggest an experiment—in the security zone in Lebanon, for instance. If it goes well, Israel will be required to reciprocate. However, the true test between Israel and Syria cannot focus on a third country. If the two sides do not conduct serious direct negotiations, the outcome will be unknown.

The concept that Syria should be alienated in the peace process is also contrary to the vital interests of the Palestinians. While there is no great love between Damascus and the Palestinians, the latter are certain to take great care to avoid making the Syrians enemies of the peace process. The Palestinian policy aims to avoid a situation in which the Syrians would have a veto over the fate of their talks with Israel, but not for a moment would they wish Syria outside the process. They are not

interested in a separate peace with Israel that Syria would try to undermine, as it did the Israeli-Lebanese accord in 1983.

'Informal' Ties Possible

TA0208082292 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Aug 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and Avner Regev]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Jerusalem and Washington are presently looking at a proposal for informal ties between Syria and Israel to be maintained in parallel with the formal delegations participating in political negotiations. Senior political sources in Jerusalem said that experts dealing with Israeli-Syrian relations have recently established that this is the only way to promote the political process, particularly in view of past experience with Egypt: The late Moshe Dayan's unofficial meetings with Egyptian figures were instrumental in overcoming obstacles encountered in official negotiations.

The Jerusalem policymakers have received a proposal aimed at achieving coordination of positions on autonomy issues between Israel and the United States and Israel and Jordan prior to the end- of-August encounter. Senior political sources who reported this added that there is room for greater U.S. involvement in the negotiations, and that it is reasonable to assume that the Palestinians would take a more positive view of any proposal submitted by the United States than of those put forth by Israel. The sources added that in the course of Baker's visit to Israel, the prime minister received a promise that the United States would not resume its dialogue with the PLO, and that Washington would settle for negotiations with the Palestinian delegation from the territories. The sources further stated that the relocation of the talks from Rome to Washington was encouraged by the prime minister, and the amazement expressed in this context by the media in recent days was therefore inappropriate. [passage omitted]

'Implied' Interest in Peace

TA0208075292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Aug 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] In the recent weeks, the Syrian Government has sent several informal messages to Jerusalem acknowledging the change in Israel's political attitudes and urging the government in Jerusalem not to leave Syria outside the peace process.

The messages were conveyed by Western diplomats who had visited Damascus, including a deputy director of the Canadian Foreign Ministry's Department for Middle East Affairs, and by Aleksandr Zotov, the Russian ambassador in Damascus.

Political elements in Jerusalem yesterday described the Syrian messages as "vague," noting at the same time that they implied a possible willingness to announce Syria's intention to attain a full peace agreement in return for an explicit and public Israeli statement endorsing Security Council Resolution 242 and the "land- for-peace" formula in the context of the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Decision To Resume Peace Talks Announced

TA0208110892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today reported to the government on the continuation of the peace process in the region and the intention to resume the bilateral talks in Washington in about three weeks time. More from reporter Jack Katzenell:

[Katzenell] The government adopted the formal decision to resume the bilateral talks, and great stress was laid upon the fact that they will be open-ended, that they will continue for something of the order of a month. [passage omitted]

The prime minister himself is going to the United States to meet President Bush before these talks, and of course, one of the main items on the agenda of his meeting with President Bush will be the loan guarantees. Israel is hoping to get the loan guarantees, and right now—the last week and the coming week—the government is in constant contact with the U.S. Administration in an attempt to remove all the remaining differences to Israel's getting the loan guarantees.

Here I should stress that it is not just a matter of whether it is a total settlement freeze, or a partial settlement freeze. There are differences in economic outlook between the U.S. Government and the Israeli Government, as we heard from [Economy Minister] Prof. Shim'on Shetrit, who said that the money does not have to be used only for infrastructure and job creation, but also for certain social functions, which he feels are just as vital as these others:

[Begin Shetrit recording] I am saying that they don't understand that in order to absorb 430,000 immigrants, one need not only prepare jobs for them, and one need not only prepare houses for them, but one needs to provide social services: education, health, social services, social workers. Many of them are people that are disabled, and they have to be taken care of. So, even if you define it economically, absorption must include social absorption.

And secondly, if we think what are the big challenges, the major challenges of this government, it's: one, peace; and two, society and economy. And if we are excluded from using the loan guarantees for social purposes, then it is a partial and mistaken conception of what this government has to do. [end recording]

[Katzenell] Getting back to the bilateral peace talks reopening in August in Washington, the government

adopted another quite important decision. It appointed Prof. Itamar Rabinowitz of Tel Aviv University to head the negotiations with Syria. This, of course, is instead of Yosi Ben-Aharon, the former director general of the Prime Minister's Office. I should point out that Prof. Rabinowitz is an Arab affairs expert; he is an expert on Syria, and he is very well known to our listeners also. [passage omitted]

Another cabinet decision today was that Mordekhay Gur would be deputy minister of defense; Yosi Beilin, deputy foreign minister; Nisim Zvili, deputy finance minister; Masha Lubelsky would be deputy minister of trade and industry; Nawaf Musaliha of the Labor party, deputy health minister; and Eli Ben-Menahem, also from the Labor, would be a deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, in charge of the underprivileged neighborhoods. In addition, Walid Sadiq of Meretz will be deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office; his functions have not yet been decided. Ran Kohen, also of Meretz, will be deputy housing minister. This brings the number of deputy ministers to a very impressive 12 so far. [passage omitted]

Negotiator 'Optimistic' on Syria

TA0308100792 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 92 p 3

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovitz, head of the Israeli negotiating team with Syria, by Tali Lipkin-Shahaq on 2 August; place not given]

[Text] [Lipkin-Shahaq] Prof. Rabinovitz, does the fact that you agreed to head the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Syria indicate some optimism on your part regarding the chances of reaching an arrangement? If so, what is this optimism based upon?

[Rabinovitz] Yes, I am optimistic. My optimism stems from the fact that the process of achieving an arrangement between Israel and Syria includes other parties, in addition to the two major participants. I am certain that all these parties—primarily, Israel, the United States, and the Arab partners: the Egyptians and the Saudis—want to move toward an arrangement. As for the Syrians, I believe that al-Asad seeks an arrangement in a certain sense of the word. What we must determine is whether his concept of an arrangement can correspond to the Israeli perception of the term.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] What is the Israeli concept of an arrangement?

[Rabinovitz] Clearly, an arrangement must be based on compromise and not on total Israeli concessions. Israel must insist on real peace and not merely a formal declaration. The Israeli Government will present specific positions, which will be imparted to the negotiators before the talks begin. Obviously, I cannot refer to this now.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] What do we know about Syria's attitude toward the Rabin government?

[Rabinovitz] I would say that the initial response was negative. At the time, I saw two reasons for this. The first is that the process of erosion in U.S.-Israeli relations would be stopped and relations would begin to improve. Syria, which hoped to capitalize from the deteriorating relationship between Israel and the United States, realized that this avenue was now closed. The second reason was the fact that the Syrians apparently believed that Rabin's policy would be to put off an arrangement with Syria and were therefore worried. After some time passed, however, and especially after Secretary of State Baker's visit, Syria issued a series of more moderate statements.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] Does this imply that Syria received messages that Rabin would be willing to negotiate over the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovitz] No, I do not think so.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] What messages did the Syrians receive?

[Rabinovitz] I am now part of the team, and it would not be right to discuss these issues as if I was an observer.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] What role does Egypt play in your optimistic scenario?

[Rabinovitz] Egypt and the other major Arab countries have a role in defining the Arab consensus and in deciding what is and what is not legitimate in Arab nationalist public opinion. Egypt clearly desires to play a role in promoting an arrangement. When Egypt sought an arrangement with Israel, the Arab world obstructed the process. The situation today is that large segments of the Arab world wish to facilitate the process. That is one point. The second point is that Egypt definitely can relay messages and help moderate positions. It can mediate.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] Is there a possibility of achieving full peace with Syria at the end of the upcoming round of talks you are leaving to attend?

[Rabinovitz] Even the negotiations between Egypt and Israel, which were perhaps less complicated, took much more than one month; however, I do believe that in the course of the first month, we can obtain significant progress.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] Why was it easier with Egypt? What is so complex with regard to the Syrians?

[Rabinovitz] I would say that the main difference lies in the fact that Israeli-Egyptian relations did not involve such a feeling of national hostility. As soon as contacts were begun at the 101st kilometer [where the 1973 cease-fire agreement was signed], right at the end of the Yom Kippur War, both parties sensed that the conflict could be resolved. The Egyptians never said that they would opt for a completely separate agreement; however, it was clear that al-Sadat's Egypt was ready to give its

own particular interests priority over any commitment to general Arab principles. These two things may be more difficult with Syria. Had this interview been held several years ago, I would have added that Soviet patronage also contributed to the problematic nature of negotiations with Syria. One of the most important developments that has taken place is the disappearance of this factor. Its disappearance makes negotiations easier.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] Is Syria really so committed to the wider interests of the Arab world or is this merely an excuse?

[Rabinovitz] We are talking about the Ba'th regime, and although I am not saying that this fact is insurmountable, it definitely constitutes an obstacle.

[Lipkin-Shahaq] What previous experience do you have in this type of negotiations?

[Rabinovitz] I have experience in negotiations, but not in a diplomatic context. My experience pertains to other aspects of my career. I believe that my experience in negotiations, as well as my familiarity with Arab politics in general and those of Syria in particular, are important tools that I bring with me to this job.

Palestinian Delegation Returns from Tunisia

TA020808359Z Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The delegation of Israeli Arabs that visited Tunisia returned to Israel this morning. They had been invited by the Tunisian culture minister. Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned that during its visit, the delegation met with the PLO leadership, including Yasir 'Arafat and Faruq Qaddumi. Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who headed the delegation, asserted that its members had not violated the law during their trip. He said that he had met with the Tunisian culture minister and with Haydar Mahmud, the Jordanian ambassador there, who is a famous poet.

In their meetings in Tunisia, the delegation members discussed the regional ramifications of the political turnabout in Israel and its effect on the peace process.

Dr. al-Tibi told our correspondent that he had received the impression that today the PLO leadership was more prepared than ever before to reach peace arrangements with Israel.

Al-Tibi Comments on Tunisia Meetings

TA020812459Z Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, chairman of al-Tayyibah-based Arab Academics Association, by Eytan Almog—live]

[Text] [Almog] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi has just returned to Israel today, after heading an Israeli Arab delegation to Tunis. Good day Dr. al-Tibi.

[Al-Tibi] Hello, Eytan.

[Almog] I imagine that you met with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Tibi] I was invited by the Tunisian Government to participate in the Carthage festival. In Tunis, I had the honor of meeting the Tunisian culture minister. I also met with Moroccan, Palestinian, and other Arab diplomats.

[Almog] And right now I am talking to an Israeli Arab diplomat who will not answer a very simple question. Did you meet Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Tibi] I was very careful not to violate a law that I totally reject. This is only because the law is in its death throes anyway, so there is no point in making provocations. However, all the meetings held by the Israeli Arab delegation were solely within the confines of the law.

[Almog] Look, bumping into some Palestinian leader at a news conference is still permissible within the confines of the law.

[Al-Tibi] There were some encounters.

[Almog] Ah, so there were some encounters. Tell me about your most important encounter with the PLO leadership and Yasir 'Arafat, which was of course completely coincidental and out of no intention to break the law.

[Al-Tibi] Without commenting directly on any specific meetings, many of us received the impression that the PLO leadership is very interested in current developments following the political turnabout in Israel. The PLO is cautiously optimistic regarding the chances for progress in the political process and the bilateral negotiations. There is talk about specific issues such as what kind of elections will be held in the territories. There is speculation as to what kind of leader Rabin will turn out to be....

[Almog, interrupting] Who were the people doing the talking?

[Al-Tibi] Palestinians. Look, the Palestinian leadership....

[Almog, interrupting] Forgive me for pressuring you, but that is what I am paid for. Did you meet with Yasir 'Arafat by coincidence, or was there some chance encounter that was planned so as not to violate Israeli law?

[Al-Tibi] Yasir 'Arafat's opinion on the political process was....

[Almog, interrupting] Dr. Al-Tibi, did you meet 'Arafat?

[Al-Tibi] This is the third time you have asked....

[Almog, interrupting] The fourth.

[Al-Tibi, continuing] And I refuse to give you a direct answer.

[Almog] You know the saying that silence implies assent.

[Al-Tibi] You can say whatever you want, Eytan.

[Almog] Let us assume that you met Yasir 'Arafat. From your answers I realize that I have no other choice. You do not want to incriminate yourself in this interview or in any other way. What did you talk about when you met Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Tibi] In Tunis, the most important issues on the agenda were the settlements, the bilateral talks, the elections in the territories; and the establishment, composition, and authority of the internal police force. However, the main issue was the political turnabout in Israel and the Israeli public's vote. We learned that the Palestinian leadership led by Yasir 'Arafat believes that the Israeli public is leaning toward a solution through compromise. The Palestinian leadership unequivocally states that first of all it wants to give Mr. Rabin's government a chance. It also wants to give itself and the process a chance and to continue to strive as seriously as possible to sign an agreement on the transfer of authority from the military and civil administrations in the territories to an independent Palestinian authority.

[Almog] We have just been apprised of Faysal al-Husayni's statements regarding a 20,000-member Palestinian police force. Would you say that officials in Tunis are happy with this kind of report?

[Al-Tibi] This issue was discussed more than once in Tunis, and several options were raised. The Palestinian policemen do not necessarily have to come from the territories. After all, there is the possibility, which even figured in the Camp David accords at the time, of the return to the territories—to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—of Palestinians who left these territories after 1967. Some of these have been trained in such procedures abroad. There are such Palestinians. The question is how they will be returned in an agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli parties. This issue is discussed daily in Tunis.

[Almog] What can you tell us about the trained Palestinian forces in Egypt and Jordan?

[Al-Tibi] I have no information on these forces....

[Almog, interrupting] But you just said that there trained forces and that these are the ones....

[Al-Tibi, interrupting] The Palestinian leadership indeed said that it has such trained forces. It also seeks Egyptian and Jordanian assistance in training Palestinians to maintain internal security within the territories during the transitional stage. In my view, this is a legitimate demand. It also corresponds to the relevant clauses in the Camp David accords.

[Almog] Thank you, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. I am willing to testify that you did not admit to meeting Yasir 'Arafat during this interview, but in light of your denials and evasive responses our listeners certainly drew their own conclusions. Thank you very much.

MK Mahamid Met With 'Arafat, Hawatimah

TA0208192192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Hashim Mahamid from HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] recently met in Tunis with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and with Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front. MK Mahamid told our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir that he is not prepared to whitewash the facts or cheat and that he indeed met the two. Replying to our correspondent's question of whether these meetings violate the law banning meetings with PLO members, MK Mahamid said that in his opinion this is an undemocratic law, which he hopes this government will bury.

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, spokesman of the Israeli Arab delegation that traveled to Tunis, refused to confirm reports about the meetings with the PLO leaders. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Television Appearance Banned

TA0208193092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The High Court of Justice today banned Israel Broadcasting Authority from inviting Faysal al-Husayni to appear on Israel Television's Moqed program until after it has heard the appeal submitted by Attorney Elyaqim Ha'etzni. Our legal affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that Ha'etzni argued in court that an interview with al-Husayni might harm state security, legitimize the intifadah's leadership, and demoralize the public. The appeal will be heard within 30 days, and until then al-Husayni will not be hosted on the Moqed program.

Palestinian Plans for Self-Rule Detailed

TA0308091092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Aug 92 p A3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Ever since the Madrid conference, the Palestinians have been making operative preparations for taking over the self-rule authorities. The members of the Palestinian delegation have accumulated data, concepts have been formulated, and organizational frameworks have been outlined. As part of the preparations, which aim to set the groundwork for future cabinet ministries, committees of experts have been appointed and higher councils gradually established.

The territories leadership, in coordination with PLO-Tunis, began setting up expert committees toward the end of 1991. The committees were assigned the task of collecting data on various spheres of life and drafting professional position papers providing basic information, operational options, and cost-versus-efficacy considerations of each option in every sphere. In some spheres, experts prepared skeleton plans both for the needs of the self- government during the interim period and for the needs of the independent Palestinian state.

According to Palestinian elements, there are at present 39 teams of experts, which include numerous academics. The teams, which are deployed in a structure quite similar to that of the Civil Administration in the territories, are put together by a higher steering committee which directs their work along general lines. Coordination committees, similarly to Civil Administration branches, are subordinate to the higher steering committee.

One of the coordination committees is comprised of administrative personnel, special advisers, and data bank supervisors. Another is the infrastructure committee, which is made up of teams of experts on issues such as water, electricity, housing, real estate, roads, communication, environment, archaeology, public works, and so forth.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 3 August carries a related report by Pinhas 'Inbari, adding that "Palestinian sources have told our reporter that the housing council, which is a quasi housing ministry, is headed by Ibrahim Sha'ban; the health council is headed by Dr. Anis al-Qaq; and the higher education council is headed by Dr. Jabi Baramaki. The contacts toward the establishment of a Palestinian police force were conducted through the police and security council."

[The report further states that "in Washington, the delegations will strive to reach an agreement on a timetable for implementing the interim period plan, our correspondent has learned from Palestinian sources. The sources added that there is controversy over the issue of elections in the territories, and despite the formal statements about the intention to hold elections by the end of the year, there is a growing demand among PLO supporters to postpone the elections until the domestic situation stabilizes. According to the sources, Secretary of State James Baker made it clear to the Palestinian delegation with which he met in Jerusalem that it is too soon to discuss elections in the territories."]

The coordination committee on economic affairs comprises teams on issues such as agriculture, industry, tourism, taxes, trade, and comprehensive economic planning. In the administration and service committee, teams address the issues of education, health, interior affairs, police, youth and women's affairs, and so forth. Another committee is composed of teams dealing with long-term planning: security, Jerusalem, settlements, international relations, ties with Arab countries, refugee affairs, and so forth.

At present, the teams are still busy preparing data and recommendations, occasionally conveying summaries of findings to delegation members. The latter review the options with which they have been presented, on the basis of political versus economic cost. Yet, because of Israel's refusal to put the Israeli data banks at their disposal, the experts encounter difficulties gathering precise and full information.

In the course of the bilateral talks, Israeli delegates said that data would be passed on to the Palestinians only when they are put in charge of spheres of authority. Because of that, Palestinian experts are forced to collect data from official publications, Civil Administration officials' reports, Jordanian and Egyptian ministries' files, and PLO institutions.

A more substantial and significant difficulty, however, lies in the question of the source of authority of the future Palestinian self-government. The legislative authority, which the Palestinians have demanded, is supposed to provide the self-government with real substance which will allow it to rule effectively. This issue is the main stumbling block in the negotiations, and the Palestinians claim that as long it remains unresolved, they will be unable to draft concrete, detailed plans on which negotiations can be based. The Palestinians ask: Can legislation pertaining to land expropriation or administrative detention remain valid under Palestinian rule?

These technical and legislative problems are characteristic of the difficulties the teams are encountering in every sphere. In the sphere of electricity, for instance, Palestinian experts advised their delegation of the existence of 17 points from which the Israel Electricity Company supplies 98 percent of the territories' demand. The construction of a Palestinian power system would take about five years and exact a high monetary price, in addition to the political price of dependence on Israel.

One of the problems arising from this option has to do with the import of raw materials the power stations will need. Should refined or raw oil be imported? And how? From abroad via Israel or from Iraq? Will taxes be paid to Israel, or will the imports come under a transit arrangement? These and other questions depend on arrangements to be achieved in the negotiations, the Palestinians say, and the answers, therefore, lie in the hands of the delegation to the negotiations.

Other options being examined by the experts include power supply from Jordan or Egypt. The decision on the best option has been left for the more advanced stages of the negotiations, at which point it will become clear the extent to which the Palestinians will be given freedom of action in passing legislation in various fields, as well as the political price they will have to pay for each of the options.

Archaeology is another example of the dilemma. The Palestinian team, which plans to establish a Palestinian authority of antiquities that will grant excavation permits, is uncertain about the law under which this issue will fall. They reject both the Israeli and the Jordanian

law. The matter has been left open for the time being. In the meantime, members of the team are collecting data and conducting surveys on archaeological sites. They plan to launch an extensive public relations campaign soon among the Palestinians, with the objective of reducing the scope of the massive theft of ancient artifacts in the West Bank and increasing the awareness of the importance of the archaeological finds for the Palestinian people.

In spheres in which government infrastructure can be started, the Palestinians are setting up higher councils, which constitute the skeleton frameworks that will be prepared to assume operational authorities and function as ministries. So far, councils in the fields of housing, culture and propaganda, tourism, and health have been established. The housing council, for instance, is about to receive some $37 million from the EC, with which it will build about 1,200 housing units in the territories. This is the only council whose activities are financed by a proper budget, allowing it to implement its authority as a higher council even without legislative powers in real estate and housing spheres.

The Palestinians have initiated additional activities designed to display the outward manifestations of rule. A course in television, organized by the Palestinian Journalists Association, is due to open soon. Last June, a Palestinian Film Week was organized by the Jerusalem-based Cinema and Television Institute. The objective of these activities is to lay the infrastructure for a broadcasting and cinematography authority. The culture council is currently organizing events for a "Jerusalem Festival."

Construction Frozen on Units in Foundation Stage

TA0208084792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 92 p A4

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer agreed last week to extend the housing freeze policy in the territories to apartments whose construction has already started. Beyond the Green Line, they agreed to freeze the construction of 1,200 to 1,500 housing units which were in the foundation-laying stage.

It should be noted that so far, the decisions regarding construction freezes in the territories referred either to housing units for which no contracts had been signed, or units where contracts had been signed but construction had not started. The total number of such housing units stood at about 5,400.

In a meeting between the prime minister and the construction and housing minister, it was decided to review all the housing starts beyond the Green Line and to freeze a large part of buildings in initial stages of construction. The decision was prompted by the fear that there would be no demand for these apartments, in which case the government would be forced to assume its purchase commitments to building contractors.

According to the Construction and Housing Ministry data, some 1,800 apartments in the territories are in the foundation stage, 2,800 in the frame stage, and 4,900 in the finishing stage. A government decision to freeze the construction of most apartments in the frame stage may save the state some 150 million shekels in the 1993 and 1994 fiscal years, after the deduction of the compensation to be paid to contractors who will have lost building contracts.

In the past two weeks, the government decided to freeze the construction of some 12,000 housing units throughout the country, including the territories. No contracts with building contractors had been signed for most of these apartments.

Planes Return Safely Following Raid in Lebanon

TA0208201292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] planes this evening raided a Hizballah target in the village of al-Qulaylah, south of al-Rashidiyah in Lebanon. The target was hit and all our planes returned safely. Our correspondent, Karmela Menashe, reports that IAF planes raided Hizballah targets in Lebanon twice last Thursday, and tonight's is the fifth raid in the last two weeks.

Return From Raid on Hizballah

TA0308112292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Air Force planes again raided Hizballah targets in Jabal Safi in Lebanon at noon today. The targets were hit and all our planes returned safely to base.

Our army affairs correspondent notes that last night, too, Air Force planes attacked Hizballah targets in Lebanon. Today's raid is the sixth in the past two weeks.

Invitation to 24 Aug-26 Sep Peace Talks Received

NC3107123192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry delegation currently visiting Lebanon met with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas. U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker arrived unexpectedly at the Foreign Ministry during the meeting. He held a 10-minute conversation with Ambassador Shammas and handed him an official invitation to Lebanon from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to participate in the sixth round of the bilateral talks, which are scheduled to convene in Washington on 24 August. Ambassador Shammas said:

[Begin recording] He conveyed to us an invitation for resuming the sixth round of bilateral talks in Washington from 24 August until 26 September. I did not object in principle to the invitation, the proposed date, or the time period; the Lebanese Government will have to decide what it will do. I am waiting for the foreign minister and prime minister to return to notify them about this development. I will also contact His Excellency President al-Hirawi. I also met with the U.S. ambassador for a short time. He conveyed his government's invitation to the talks in Washington. [end recording]

Al-Sulh Leaves for Talks With Syrian Officials

NC0308084692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh left for Damascus this morning to hold talks with Syrian officials concerning the situation in Lebanon.

Earlier, al-Sulh met with Minister Marwan Hamadah—who submitted his resignation—and Deputy Akram Shuhayyib. Following the meeting, Hamadah said that solutions [regarding Druze protests against Army repossessions] are being explored, and we hope for the best.

Israelis Continue Operations in South

'Heavy' Shelling

NC0208053992 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Israeli acts of aggression against southern Lebanon continued. Last night, the occupation forces directed heavy artillery shelling against the hills of Mlita, Jabal Safi, the environs of Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, a thicket in al-Luwayzah, and the eastern hills of Kafr Rumman.

Fighters Launch Two Raids

NC0308120692 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1138 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Israeli enemy warplanes twice raided positions in Jabal Safi and Mlita. Our correspondent in the south reports that the enemy planes dropped four missiles. Army antiaircraft fire confronted the planes, which continue to fly over the south.

At dawn today, Kafr Rumman, the extremities of al-Nabatiyah, and Habbush came under shelling from occupation positions in al-Zaffatah. One citizen was wounded, and houses and electricity and water networks were extensively damaged.

Security reports indicate that a bomb exploded in the village of Kafr Sir in al-Nabatiyah at 1130 [0830 GMT]. The blast hurt Hafiz Jassal, his wife, and their son.

Buwayz Cites French, U.S. Positions on Elections

NC0208154792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent on 2 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] The French asked some questions about the elections. France called for elections and a referendum some time ago. Naturally, it cannot back down on this position and principle now. The French are not opposed to the elections, as long as they are carried out under conditions of freedom, democracy, justice, and validity. This is how elections are held in other countries, particularly European countries.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that there are no longer any reservations about holding the elections?
[Buwayz] Actually we have not sensed any reservations, regardless of my personal views on the matter. I am speaking in my capacity as a foreign minister who was in France and who listened to the French side. Many people expected the French to raise questions about the elections and voice reservations. In fact, they did not have reservations; they merely offered some advice about the need to hold the elections according to certain standards and requirements of democracy and freedom.

[Correspondent] What about the idea of sending international observers to monitor the elections?
[Buwayz] This was originally a French proposal. It seems that some believe that the idea is worthless or would be ineffective. They believe it would be hard for 100 or 200 observers to truly give a decisive and firm opinion about the fairness of the elections. Another kind of supervision already exists here; namely, the 3,000-4,000 local and international journalists currently in Lebanon. I believe that the idea of dispatching international observers is losing ground due to the practice's ineffectiveness. The United States says that the elections are an internal Lebanese issue with which it has nothing to do. The United States has given some advice, that is all. Their advice revolves around four points: First, it notes that there is internal opposition to the elections. The United States calls on the Lebanese state to take this opposition into consideration. Second, it believes that a number of

conditions need to be met for the elections to be totally credible and that the state should fulfill these conditions before elections are held.

[Correspondent] What are these conditions?
[Buwayz] The question of the displaced people and the return of some of them to their homes; the expatriate question; and a number of technical details about the elections. Naturally, they did not go into details. Third: The United States says it must judge the elections, if they are held, in line with international standards of full democracy, freedom, justice, security, and correct balloting principles. It would rather that the elections be postponed until these issues are tackled. Finally, the United States proposed to send, or that we make use of, international observers to supervise, actually monitor, the elections. Supervision is one thing; monitoring is another. In general, we can say that the United States is taking a rather reserved position about our elections. But it says that the Lebanese state should decide what to do, and it emphasizes that their comments should be considered as advice, nothing more. The United States believes that this issue is an internal Lebanese matter on which it has no demands or position. We could sum it up by saying that the United States will judge the results based on the application of these rules, not before.

Fadlallah Criticizes Vatican Moves Toward Israel

NC0108142492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah denounced the government's silence over the rise in the dollar rate. He said: The people this week protested with a strike. We think their outcry in front of the cooperatives, pharmacies, hospitals, and bakeries indicates that they are protesting the economic situation. His eminence said the negative measures that attempt to deal with it will produce no results and reiterated his call on the leaders not to exploit sectarian differences.

Fadlallah criticized the Vatican's move to establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity and asked: Had Christ, peace be upon him, been here, would he have recognized the legitimacy of Israel's existence and the expulsion of the Arabs from their land? He replied: He would not. His eminence explained that the changes in the Zionist entity do not benefit the Arabs, but benefit loans, the $10 billion [loan guarantee], and the settlement of 50,000 Jews in the occupied territories.

Fadlallah addressed the Arab regimes pursuing Israeli peace and American suggestions, whose deception we have experienced for dozens of years. He said America wants to undermine the negotiations to benefit the enemy. Israel persists in its plans to end our political and cultural existence and security. 'Allamah Fadlallah asked: What kind of peace and negotiations are they talking about when the enemy launches raids against southern Lebanon and attacks peaceful villages? His eminence hailed the Islamic resistance in Lebanon and the Islamic intifadah in occupied Palestine as honest expressions addressing the Islamic nation through sacrifice.

On the third anniversary of the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al- Karim 'Ubayd, Fadlallah criticized the state's inaction and negligence of issues affecting its citizens. He also denounced the international silence over the Lebanese detainees and prisoners in enemy prisons and in al-Khiyam Prison—an Israeli prison. His eminence asked: Why doesn't the world demand the release of these detainees just as it demanded the release of Western hostages? He noted that the world does not respect Lebanon because Lebanon does not respect its citizens.

[Paris AFP in English at 1347 GMT on 1 August reports on Fadlallah's comments and those of "a Palestinian group," saying: "The Vatican would undermine its religious mission if it established ties with Israel and legitimized the Jewish state's occupation of Arab land, a Muslim cleric and a Palestinian group claimed."

[AFP quotes Fadlallah as saying: "'Israel exists in fact and the devil also exists in fact. That does not mean that we must recognize its legitimacy.'"

[The news agency adds: "The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), in a statement sent to Cyprus on Saturday, urged the Vatican to agree on ties with Israel only after the Jewish state withdraws from Arab land.

["The DFLP asked the Vatican to 'keep its moral commitment favoring the rights of the Palestinian people.'"

[Returning to Fadlallah, AFP continues: "Negotiations to eventually establish ties between Israel and the Vatican would lead to the 'justification and legitimization of the Israeli occupation of Palestine,' Fadlallah said in a Friday prayers session.

["'Certain states act in a pragmatic way but others like the Vatican, which believes that the words of the pope are those of Christ, carry an apostolic message,' he said.

["'Would Christ, who chased away the thieves from the temple, have recognized Israel and would he have granted it legitimacy?' Fadlallah asked.

["On Wednesday, the Vatican and Israel set up a joint committee to examine how to normalise relations between the two countries, paving the way for diplomatic ties."]

President al-Hirawi Addresses Army Day Ceremony

NC0108104592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0710 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at a ceremony marking Army Day and the graduation of a group of officers at the Shukri Ghanim Barracks in al-Fayyadiyah on 1 August—live]

[Text] Graduating officers: You receive your swords today, marking the honor of belonging to the Lebanese Army and of graduating from the first course in the state of peace. You have enlisted in this institution due to your genuine patriotism and belief in your country. Prove your loyalty to it and sacrifice for the sake of the homeland. Raise your voices so they can shine with truth in the face of aggression and with dignity in the face of despotism. You are the arm of the government in defending the people and the state. You are the watchful eye in safeguarding Lebanon's sovereignty.

Military men: Army Day comes this year with a great deal behind us and before us. Behind us is the war that we have ended for good. Those who committed wrongdoings failed, and we moved from division to unity. Behind us are achievements that resurrected the state and revived the confidence of the Lebanese and the world in this country. These achievements are a source of pride for all. They were made thanks to the accord among your noble people and your unity, morality, and competence. All this was manifested in the missions you conducted with devotion and discipline. Know that the more the peace march advances, the greater your responsibility becomes. The more your unity reflects the unity of the people, the more responsibility you have to defend this unity and defend the country's independence.

Compatriots, you have always known me to be frank with you, because I believe that the responsibility is a joint one and that the country can develop when all its people are united in their awareness of the existing facts and the adoption of the necessary decisions for their salvation and the salvation of the homeland. Step by step and day by day, the confident movement from the imposed situation to a brighter future will be realized, even if it seems that what was accomplished before dimmed the brightness of what is required in the future, that it was the introduction to a great goal, the real goal. This is the nature of building and the fate of the founders.

Compatriots, we have completed implementing a considerable part of the provisions of the National Accord document. You are aware of this accomplishment and live under its canopy. This part was implemented successfully. We proved that the country deserves to live, that it is strong, and that it has returned to nobility and to the world. After this, we had to assess the accomplishments and their results in terms of positive changes and the developments in inherited conditions with a view to utilizing them in the future. It also was necessary to prepare to confront the abnormal conditions that still exist so that the peace march will encompass the entire country. Because mistakes are not permitted, we worked to bolster our domestic march by utilizing regional and international conditions in favor of Lebanon.

During this time, in which there appeared to be no significant developments and which witnessed [word indistinct] economic and social hardships, allegations and accusations—and sometimes incriminating activities—were made, attempting to indicate that the al-Ta'if agreement is in trouble and that therefore the time has come to retreat or that the chance has come for attack. But the state, on the other hand, was completing preparations for a surge forward that is stronger, firmer, and ensuring better results.

We are facing a new stage, dictated by the need to press forward with changes that will ease the people's burden and allow the state to move ahead to fulfill its responsibilities and tasks. This stage has been reinforced by successive contacts with some fraternal Arab states, the Arab League, the Vatican, France, and some friendly states. I mention in particular the continuing talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the officials in Syria, and with the U.S. Administration. The meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Lebanon came to confirm the unlimited U.S. support for the al-Ta'if agreement, for Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity. This new stage aims at completing implementation of the National Accord document.

The march of peace is not limited to the consolidation of security, removing the barriers between the various areas, and resurrecting the state. It also means returning displaced citizens to their villages, homes, and property. In this there is no room for aspersion or one-upmanship. This decision will be implemented. The state is aware that this return will require time, effort, and development and reconstruction projects. What is important is that we have begun. It is still more important that the government is realistically and responsibly following up implementation of this major national undertaking.

The state, which is working to return the refugees to their homes, also has a duty to repossess its properties and to give everyone their rights. The state does not take rights from anyone but is reinstating these rights. Let it be known that hospitals, tourism centers, police and Army property, and agricultural laboratories will be restored to the respective authorities. Historical and cultural sites will remain landmarks of our true Lebanese heritage and history.

The march of peace means returning to the people through general parliamentary elections, which will reflect the people's will, especially as we are facing important national and political deadlines. The elections which the government intends to hold are a test of the people's exercise of their right to send those whom they trust to the Chamber of Deputies. We are confident of the people's freedom and dignity. Let them exercise their right sincerely and selflessly. We are confident of the government's ability to provide a natural and free atmosphere for all in line with the government's decision to provide full freedom to the voters and candidates. I stress to you what I declared last year: that the Army is the protector of the opponents and loyalists. The state has no lists of candidates. The state will not interfere between the people and their rights. I will be a witness to freedom. The loyalists and the opposition are both the

homeland's sons. This is your homeland and only those whom you elect will represent you.

Passing from a state of war to peace presupposes a transformation of methods and goals. No party will be the victor. All parties will uphold the homeland, whose triumph is for everyone. We have stretched out our hand to everyone because we want the state to be everyone's state. We want it to draw its strength from all, not to be exploited by those who want to grow stronger at its expense. Rest assured that no one will prove stronger than the state.

As we face imminent deadlines, Lebanon will not prevail unless it proves, at the domestic level, that a deservedly strong and just state is emerging. No time should be wasted on unsound practices. Give me your hands to complete our national sovereignty by liberating the dear occupied parts of the south and western al-Biqa' from Israeli hands, where our people daily suffer from humiliation and arbitrary acts. Give me your hands so that we may embark on reconstruction. Security will not turn into total stability unless bolstered by development and reconstruction. Give me your hands so that we may restore a healthy Lebanese role in the region and the world. Lebanon's influence depends on the role it plays.

There should be no fears about the country's future or about freedoms. Any homeland that has been baptized in blood for many years and whose sons do not agree on safeguarding freedom does not deserve to exist. Lebanon has proven it deserves to exist. The state of peace is the one that strengthens the pillars of freedom day after day. The proof is that it has not harassed even those who lie or distort the truth.

It is time for those who have taken from Lebanon to begin to give. Yes to constructive opposition, no to destructive opposition. Yes to opposition that corrects, no to opposition that utters lies. Yes to opposition that strengthens Lebanon, no to opposition that weakens it. Peace is not built with the logic of war. [short break in transmission]

O Lebanese, the possible course is the shortest one to accomplishing what must be achieved. The future is born out of reality. I will stand on the side of justice for the sake of Lebanon, all Lebanon, so that the homeland's status will rise in the eyes of all and so that Lebanon will become the symbol of justice.

Look at your villages, your areas, and your capital. Beautiful buildings lie in ruins, planting frustration in the souls of innocent and honest people. Look at your giving land. Desolation and distress have replaced orchards and hope. Look at the painful economic and living conditions. The people are suffering and are being punished without being guilty. Look at this huge legacy of violations and abuses that have accumulated for 16 years. Lebanon's wealth is abroad while Lebanese blood has been shed at home.

With work and patience, we will rescue Lebanon. National reconciliation is our course. The people have been fed conflicting theories. The people want electricity, water, telephones, and medicine. The people want dignity. The people want the truth. I will continue to work to make life easier for the people, even if I get tired. I will not do anything to tire the people, even if it does give me a bit of rest.

O Lebanese, the National Accord document is a general program. You are the throbbing heart of this accord. Your march is firmer and stronger than any illusions or whims. We have before us the challenge of building—building souls to become loyal to the homeland; building a policy to embody loyalty to the people; and building the state with all its administrations, qualified officials, and its methods of performing missions and services. We must increase economic production because it is the practical way to social, economic, and educational development.

We do not believe there is one Lebanese who accepts the current economic and living conditions. We all reject these conditions. However, dealing with these conditions requires the cooperation of all, not on using the economy as a mantle for temporary political considerations. We must all embark on production. We must strengthen confidence in our internal conditions in order to encourage foreign investment. What is reassuring is that there is Arab and international interest in participating in our reconstruction and development. This proves that the march of national stability has begun to bear fruit. Preparations for projects, works, loans, and aid formulas with the brothers and concerned international quarters have reached an advanced stage, promising the start of the workshop of reconstruction in a serious and responsible way. The state will continue efforts to achieve peace, independence, sovereignty, freedom, democracy, brotherhood, and prosperity.

O military men, I congratulate you on Army Day. You have proven you deserve the homeland's confidence. You have given without limit. Lebanon is proud of you. Long live Lebanon.

Junblatt: Druze General Strike Suspended 31 Jul

NC3107213892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt announced this evening that the general strike observed by the Druze will be suspended this evening.

In a statement to AFP, he said the strike will be suspended but that demonstrations in B'aqlin Library will continue. He added: We hope to reach an agreement with the ministries concerned soon and to halt the demonstrations tomorrow. We are ready for a dialogue with the Tourism and Interior Ministries.

Junblatt asserted that, contrary to a previous announcement, there has been no decision to stage any massive

demonstration in Bayt al-Din Palace on 2 August. He said: We are confining our movement to B'aqlin so as not to complicate things.

Al-Jumalyyil Returns To 'Confront' Elections

NC3107201492 Paris AFP in English 1934 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Beirut, July 31 (AFP)—Former Lebanese president Amin al-Jumayyil returned home Friday after a four-year voluntary exile calling for firmer opposition to the Syrian-backed government's plans to hold elections next month.

"The aim of my visit is to work for a united position to confront the...August 23 elections and other events that could be much more dangerous", al-Jumayyil said.

"What is important now is to close ranks and protect the nation," he added after talks with the head of the powerful Christian Maronite church, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr.

Sfayr spearheads an opposition movement against elections, arguing that polls should not be held as long as Syrian troops are still deployed in Lebanon. The government said the vote would be held on three consecutive Sundays starting August 23.

Al-Jumayyil, a staunch opponent of the Syrian-backed government, said he would hold talks with all the political parties. [passage omitted]

Opposed to 'Sham' Vote

NC0108122092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] In an interview with AL-DIYAR, former President Amin al-Jumayyil stated: I am against appointment elections [meaning candidates are appointed and approved in mock elections] and sham elections. We all want elections, but within Lebanese traditions, not in this way. It is clear these are appointment elections, no more and no less. He noted that the citizen is primarily concerned with the economic situation, and the price of bread to him is much more important than the elections. Let us first begin dealing with the price of bread before we deal with elections.

He added: My hand is extended to all without any reservations, provided that our concern is the national interest and we fully realize the seriousness of the present course.

Asked about his relations with [Phalangist Party leader] Dr. George Sa'adah and [Lebanese Forces Commander] Dr. Samir Ja'ja', former President al-Jumayyil said: Today we very much need to look to the future and forget the past, provided we draw up clear guidelines for the future. My hand is extended and my heart is open to all. I continue to adhere to the national goals and principles.

Phalangists: Al-Jumayyil 'Causing Problems'

NC0108125992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Commenting about former President Amin al-Jumayyil's return to Lebanon, his statement, and position, a Phalangist Party source said:

1. The Phalangist Party welcomes comrade al-Jumayyil's return to Lebanon and the return of all Lebanese leaders abroad without exception to help our current leaders find successful solutions to the political, economic, and everyday crises that burden the homeland and people.

2. The Phalangist Party regrets that al-Jumayyil has opened a bitter leaf of the past, its tragedies and ordeals, particularly since he greatly contributed to that past. The party regrets that al-Jumayyil has reopened wounds and disputes within the party and the homeland. The party regrets that al-Jumayyil, who left the Phalangist legitimacy to join national legitimacy, is causing problems instead of working as a mediator to find solutions and joining a plan ripe with disputes and lacking agreement.

3. The Phalangist Party calls on al-Jumayyil to return to the legitimate party and to commit himself to the party's position through the moderate, open, and realistic policy pursued by party leader Dr. George Sa'adah, who called for complete reconciliation among Phalangist Party leaders and members and for comprehensive Christian reconciliation as a prelude to total national reconciliation. The Phalangist Party calls on al-Jumayyil to adopt a positive attitude to reduce the pain of the homeland and citizens, increase hope, and emerge from the complexities of the past to a future of accord.

4. Regarding al-Jumayyil's remarks about the Phalangist Party's position on the parliamentary elections, the source said that al-Jumayyil is seeking to strengthen his personal position at the expense of the Phalangist Party's position, whereas the party is working to strengthen the national position at the expense of personal, factional, partisan, and sectarian positions. Thus the party insists on completing its contacts prior to adopting a national position on the elections and is determined to apply its decision—supporting or opposing the elections—to all branches of the Phalangist Party.

5. While the Phalangist Party asserts its concern about its unity, it calls on al-Jumayyil to participate in the Phalangist reconciliation process, which is considered the primary responsibility of every party member.

Damascus Invited to 24 Aug Bilateral Talks

JN0108105492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Africa and Middle East Administration at the Russian Foreign Ministry, this morning. Dr. Ghassan Raslan, director of the Eastern Europe Department, and Aleksandr Zotov, Russian ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Posuvalyuk handed the foreign minister a letter from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev inviting Syria to the bilateral talks, scheduled to be held in Washington on 24 August. Talks also dealt with Syrian-Russian relations and developments and prospects for the peace process.

It is noteworthy that the United States yesterday conveyed to the Syrian Foreign Ministry a similar letter of invitation to the bilateral peace talks in Washington on 24 August.

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 1 Aug

Denies Dispute on Water Issue

TA0108144792 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1420 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Damascus, August 1 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said on Saturday that Turkey had no intention to create problems with Syria and that the trans-border waters did not constitute a source of dispute.

Cetin arrived in the Syrian capital for a two-day official visit.

In an arrival statement at the airport, Cetin said that problems may occur between two countries from time to time.

"What is important is to resolve problems through a dialogue and negotiations based on good will and openhearthedness," he said.

On his part, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who welcomed Cetin at the airport, said that at a time when relations between the two countries proceeded well, his country was "discouraged" by the international press reports which quoted certain statements of Premier Suleyman Demirel and a number of Turkish officials on the topic of water.

He added that they believed that the current visit of Cetin would be helpful in eliminating misunderstandings on the issue.

On his visit, Cetin is being accompanied by a group of officials from the Agriculture and Foreign Ministries as well as the governor and mayor of Gaziantep which borders Syria.

Official talks between the Turkish and Syrian delegations led by Cetin and Al-Shar' will be held today. Cetin will attend a dinner hosted to him by Al-Shar' the same evening.

Cetin will meet Syrian Head of State Hafiz al-Asad and his assistant 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on Sunday.

Cetin's visit comes only a week after Turkey inaugurated a huge hydroelectic dam on the Euphrates River which flows from Turkey to Syria and Iraq, as part of a major regional development project.

Syria has in the past expressed fears that the project will delimit its water supply but Ankara argues that it will in fact regulate it providing a more regular flow.

Turkey also says it will honor standing agreements to supply 500 cubic meters of water per second at the point where the Euphrates enters Syria. Syria is demanding 700.

The Syrian side is expected to request a trilateral agreement between Turkey, Syria and Iraq, assigning specific quotas to each country on the Euphrates.

Syria's ambassador to Ankara, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i, said earlier this week that such an agreement would dispel Syrian concern over its primary water supply.

Syria depends almost solely on the Euphrates which rises in eastern Turkey.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry spokeswoman responded to the Syrian suggestion, saying Turkey was prepared to cooperate with Syria and Iraq in using the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers but does not believe that trans-border water courses are a political issue to be exaggerated.

For the Turkish side the security question is of utmost importance and Cetin will ask for information about what measures Damascus has taken in the fight against the outlawed separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) under a protocol signed between Turkey and Syria in March, during an official visit of Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin to this country.

Turkey will reportedly draw Syria's attention to intelligence reports of ongoing Syrian support for the PKK, whose eight-year campaign for independence in southeastern Turkey has left over 4,300 people dead.

He is also expected to discuss the Syrian promise in March to close camps used by PKK in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' valley.

Before his arrival in Damascus, Cetin told reporters on board that water and security were two entirely different issues which could not be traded with each other.

As Turkey was optimistic at the beginning that Syria would assist in Turkey's combatting against terrorism,

recent reports indicate that efforts by Syria in this respect have been either stopped or slowed-down, he said.

"Under the prevailing global conditions each country should erase the impression that it is tolerating terrorism," he added.

Holds Talks With al-Shar'

JN0108164292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Damascus—Official talks began in Damascus at 1700 today between the Syrians, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and a Turkish group led by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

Cetin arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Ankara, the Turkish ambassador in Damascus, and Turkish Embassy staff greeted him at Damascus International Airport.

In a statement to journalists, Cetin said: My visit to Syria comes at the invitation of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He added: Although this is the sixth visit to your friendly country at the foreign minister level, it is my first trip. Cetin stated: This visit will give me an opportunity to hold constructive talks with my brother Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. I also will have the honor of meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. During this visit, I will be able to acquaint myself with the development made and the achievements gained in Syria under the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Cetin said: It is known that there are strong fraternal ties and historical and cultural relations between our two countries. These ties call on our countries to reinforce and to strengthen their relations in all fields in the service of our mutual interests. He added: The issue of water should not create misunderstanding. Turkey has no intention of creating an atmosphere of misunderstanding between our two countries. It is known that some degree of misunderstanding between neighborly countries is normal. He asserted: What is important is that there should be a will to settle such things through negotiation and dialogue between officials from both countries.

Cetin said that the Turkish interior minister's visit to Syria between 14 and 17 April and the talks he held had created an atmosphere of security and confidence between the two countries. He added: We record with great appreciation the initiatives and constructive steps achieved between our two countries to reinforce stability and achieve security. Cetin expressed hope that bilateral cooperation will continue in the future as well. He said: Our objective is to achieve stability and cooperation in all fields between our two countries.

In his statement to journalists, the Turkish foreign minister added: There is no doubt that there are mutual benefits and interests between our two countries and that strengthening and reinforcing this cooperation will benefit us all. He expressed his complete confidence that mutual contacts will serve to explore new horizons for cooperation in addition to assessing the existing bilateral cooperation.

Cetin said: As you know, both countries enjoy an important geographical and strategic position. It is also noteworthy that both countries, Turkey and Syria, enjoy complete stability. In view of this fact, I assert that strong cooperation between our two countries will not only benefit their mutual interests but also help to achieve stability and security in the entire Middle East region.

Concluding his statement, the Turkish foreign minister expressed his own pleasure and that of the delegation accompanying him at the opportunity to visit Syria.

Asked whether recent statements by Turkish officials about the issue of water reflect the real Turkish position, Cetin replied: I believe that there is a misunderstanding regarding this subject. If you are referring to the recent statements made by the Turkish prime minister, he frankly said at a press conference that Turkey cannot possibly adopt a stance that would harm its neighbors, especially Syria. Cetin added that Mr. Demirel's statements contained nothing that harms Syria, as propagated by the media. Cetin added: Our ambassador in Syria conveyed the text of the statements to the concerned parties in Damascus. The Turkish foreign minister asserted: I reaffirm that Turkey cannot take a position that would harm Syria.

Responding to another question, the Turkish foreign minister asserted his country's commitment to the treaty concluded with Syria in 1987 about sharing water. He added: The Turkish Government's program and policy will not change.

Replying to questions from the Turkish reporters accompanying the guest minister, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: First of all, I would like to welcome Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin to Damascus. I hope that his visit to Syria will produce good results that will reflect positively on the interests of the two states, neighbors, and friends—Syria and Turkey.

He added: Syria is an Arab country known for its traditions of hospitality and warm welcome accorded to its guests, especially guests coming from a neighborly Muslim country, such as Turkey. Therefore, we in Syria welcome Hikmet Cetin's visit to our country.

Replying to a question about the issue of water between Turkey and Syria, al-Shar' said: The Syrian people were disappointed by the recent statements attributed to Turkish Prime Minister Demirel, as carried by news agencies, regardless of the clarifications made later between the foreign ministries of our two countries and

despite what I have just heard from Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin. We were disappointed not only because the statements attributed to Demirel contradict international law and international norms and the agreement concluded between the two countries, but also because these statements came at a time when Syrian-Turkish relations are at their best level since World War II, if not since World War I.

Al-Shar' added: In any event, we are eager to promote relations of friendship and cooperation with Turkey, a neighborly and friendly country, through dialogue, the exchange of opinions, and consultation. We also believe that the Turkish foreign minister's visit will help a great deal to remove the misunderstanding that has arisen, considering that other media have played a negative role in this regard to harm the historical relations between Syria and Turkey.

Expressing the hope that this visit will yield positive results, al-Shar' added: I hope that we will be able to speak to you about the positive results we will reach based on the fact that Syrian-Turkish relations are not only important in the service of the interests of the two neighborly and friendly nations, but they also are extremely important for the security and stability of the region.

The Turkish foreign minister is accompanied by a high-level delegation and a large media contingent.

Water Issue, Terrorism Discussed

TA0208052292 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 0430 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin will continue to hold contacts in Damascus today.

Late last night, he talked to reporters about the topics being discussed by both countries' delegations.

The foreign minister said that during his talks, it emerged that the statements by certain Turkish officials in connection with the water issue were distorted. He assured the Syrian officials, he said, that Turkey will never place its neighbors in a difficult position by means of threats about water.

Cetin stated that the issue of terrorism was also discussed at the talks, and that he told the Syrian authorities that Turkey is determined to resolve this problem within its borders. He added that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained that Syria is fulfilling the clauses of the Turkish-Syrian protocol on terrorism and security signed last April. Al-Shar' denied the press reports to the contrary, Cetin said, adding: My Syrian colleague pointed out that he cannot say that they have resolved everything completely, but he stressed that they have no links with the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] and that they do not approve of terrorism.

Foreign Minister Cetin said that during a dinner given in his honor last night, he had the opportunity to converse with Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah. Harbah also assured me, Cetin said, that they are fulfilling the clauses of the terrorism and security protocol and that they will continue to do so.

Cetin said that Harbah stated that there are no terrorist camps working against Turkey either in Syria or in any lands controlled by Syria. Cetin added: The Syrian interior minister stressed that he cannot say that his country has been completely purged of PKK members, but that the authorities are doing whatever is necessary to ensure that this is done.

Cetin said: We are satisfied with the fact that they have been doing what they promised they would do. Furthermore, the interior minister stressed that they are very determined about this issue. He said that we should convey to them any specific information we have, that they will definitely do whatever is necessary, and that they will fulfill all their promises.

Foreign Minister Cetin said that the talks between the delegations will continue today and that bilateral economic relations as well as regional questions will be discussed. He said that there is a chance that Syria might stop allowing the transit of livestock through its territory. The issue might be concluded today, he added.

Cetin will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today.

Further on Talks

TA0208145592 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1440 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Damascus, August 2 (A.A)—Syria and Turkey tried for the second consecutive day on Sunday to resolve problems over water control and security problems, it was reported here on Sunday.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Turkish counterpart Hikmet Cetin discussed cooperation in various fields during three hours of talks but focused mainly on water.

"The desire was common to improve ties in a way that would ensure confidence and remove any obstacles which could hinder the development of the good relations," a Syrian official told reporters.

The first day of talks on Saturday was soured by a public wrangle over water. Syria criticised remarks by Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel in which he reportedly said Syria and Iraq could not lay claim to the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.

Turkey last month began generating power at the Ataturk Dam, the lynchpin of a 25-billion [not further specified] power and irrigation scheme in its south-eastern region.

Cetin later told reporters Demirel's remarks had been misunderstood and added Turkey was committed to a 1987 treaty to maintain overflow of Euphrates waters

into Syria through the newly- commissioned Ataturk Dam at 500 cubic metres per second.

Syria and Iraq fear Turkey will control the water to their detriment and have long sought a trilateral agreement assigning specific quotas to each downstream country.

Syria has in the past expressed fears that the project will delimit its water supply but Ankara argues that it will in fact regulate it providing a more regular flow.

Turkey also says it will honor standing agreements to supply 500 cubic meters of water per second at the point where the Euphrates enters Syria.

The Syrian side is expected to request a trilateral agreement between Turkey, Syria and Iraq, assigning specific quotas to each country on Euphrates.

Talks on Sunday also focused on a Syrian promise to stop helping outlawed separatist terrorists using camps in Lebanon's Syria- controlled al-Biqa' valley.

More than 4,300 people have been killed in Turkey since the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) began its fight for an independent state in 1984.

Earlier on Sunday Cetin said he received assurances from al-Shar' and Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah that Damascus was fulfilling an agreement to curb activities of the PKK.

The PKK was reported to have evacuated its main training camp in the al-Biqa' after the agreement was signed in April, but it remains unclear whether PKK terrorists still operate elsewhere in Syria or Lebanon.

Cetin is also expected to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad later on Sunday to relay a verbal message from the Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

Cetin on 'Important Steps' Taken

TA0208155792 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1540 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Damascus, August 2 (A.A)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said here on Sunday important steps have been taken for the development of relations and his visit to Syria has been very productive.

Cetin is in Damascus on a four-day official visit of his Syrian counterpart Faruk al-Shar'.

Speaking to reporters here at the end of official talks between Turkish and Syrian delegations, Cetin said all subjects were taken up and both countries agreed to increase efforts to contribute to world peace and to find solutions to global problems.

He said during talks, both countries agreed for a yearly meeting of their respective foreign ministers in an efforts to increase established bilateral ties and dialogue, as well as to see on-the spot application of agreements signed during earlier meetings.

Cetin said a technical commission set up earlier between Turkey, Iraq and Syria will meet in the near future at Turkey's convenience.

He said Syria followed a line that did not give way to any sceptisism for subjects concerning Turkey's security adding Syria has assured Turkey it will not support any terrorist activity.

Cetin is later scheduled to meet with Syrian head of state Hafiz al-Asad and assistant head of state 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

He will leave Damascus later on Sunday.

Meets al-Asad 2 Aug

JN0208184792 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] At 1700 today, President Hafiz al-Asad met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Syrian Ambassador in Ankara 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i; and Turkish Ambassador in Damascus Ugur Ziya. Talks during the meeting centered on the regional situation, several international issues, and bilateral relations. Cetin stressed his country's eagerness to promote relations with Syria, as well as its adherence to agreements signed by the two countries on water and other matters. He said that statements attributed to the Turkish prime minister about the waters of the Euphrates and the Tigris Rivers were distorted and do not represent Turkish policy.

President al-Asad welcomed these assurances and stressed Syria's eagerness to promote relations between both neighboring countries in various areas. He also expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the talks held in Damascus by the Syrian and the Turkish foreign ministers and delegations of both countries. Minister Cetin conveyed the greetings of Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to President al-Asad, who thankfully accepted them and asked him to convey his greetings to President Ozal and Demirel. Minister Cetin also extended to President al-Asad an invitation from President Turgut Ozal to visit Turkey. The president accepted the invitation graciously and promised to make the visit at an appropriate time.

Reviews Talks

TA0208210492 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said that Syria will definitely fulfill its promises to Turkey about the issues of terrorism and security. The Syrian president met with Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who is in Damascus, this evening and conferred with him for two hours. At the meeting, Cetin extended President Turgut Ozal's invitation to al-Asad to visit Turkey. Cetin decided to extend his visit to Syria by another day upon the

insistence of his Syrian counterpart Faruk al-Shar'. He will return to Turkey tomorrow.

In a statement after his meeting with al-Asad, Cetin said that he observed that al-Asad has a definite political will to develop and intensify relations with Turkey. Noting that bilateral issues and regional problems were discussed in detail at the meeting, Cetin added that al-Asad understood that Turkey has no position on cross-border waters other than the one expressed at the 1987 protocol. He added that at the meeting he also observed that Syria is abiding by the agreement signed earlier about the issue of security and terror, that it will continue to do so in the future, and that al-Asad has taken a personal interest in the issue. Cetin said: Hafiz al-Asad told me that Syria will definitely keep the promise it has made on the issue of terror and security. Cetin added that al-Asad proposed that a permanent committee be set up to exchange views about the issue. Noting that he also conveyed an oral message from Ozal as well as Ozal's invitation, Cetin said that al-Asad told him that he definitely wants to realize this visit.

Replying to a question, Cetin said that the problems between the two countries were artificially exaggerated prior to the high-level visits. He added: He was uncomfortable about this. Actually, the real path to solving all these problems is the following: I told him that the two countries should believe in and trust one another. So long as this belief and trust do not exist written documents, agreements, and protocols do not carry much significance. This trust should not affected by indirect statements and misunderstandings. Cetin said that Turkey, within the framework of good-neighborly relations and mutual trust, will not engage in any acts that might harm any of its neighbors.

Noting that Turkey and Syria share the view that a separate state should not be established in northern Iraq, Cetin added that Syria supports Turkey's approach on the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He noted that it has also become apparent that Turkey and Syria also share the view that for the solution of the Karabakh problem a cease-fire should be secured and that the Armenians should withdraw from the territory they have occupied.

Meanwhile, Cetin's Damascus visit was extended for another day following Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's friendly proposal and his emphatic insistence. Cetin said that al-Shar's insistent invitation—I am telling you in a friendly and brotherly manner. Be my personal guest—could not be turned down. It is reported that in Syria the insistent extension of such visits is an expression of significant ties of friendship and understanding.

Cetin and the delegation accompanying him will return to Turkey after the two foreign ministers hold a joint news conference and a joint communique on the visit is issued tomorrow morning.

Views Water 'Misunderstanding'

JN0308074592 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1925 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Interview with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin by unidentified reporter within the "Focus" program in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good evening, and welcome to this special edition of Focus. With us tonight is Mr. Hikmet Cetin, the foreign minister of Turkey. We have several topics to talk about. Good evening Mr. Cetin, and welcome to our program.
[Cetin] Well, I thank you very much and I am very glad to be in Syria, and also on the program.

[Reporter] My first question to you is, it is really not a question but a statement issued by, or made by Mr. Demirel. He said that Turkey can do whatever it wants with its waters. Do you want us to talk about this, or not?
[Cetin] Well, I think that this was a misunderstanding. I have explained yesterday to all my colleagues here that what we have said in 1987 is still valid.

[Reporter] You are referring to the agreement?
[Cetin] Well, surely, of course. What Mr. Demirel said is that we have new projects and with those projects, of course now we are regulating the water to Syria because, for example, in the summer time, previously, the water flow was much more less than now in the existing situation, and we are giving more this time. We are regulating the water, which is, of course, a misunderstanding. Syria is our neighbor, and we do not want to give any harm.

[Reporter] So, the statement was misunderstood?
[Cetin] Misunderstood by.... [changes thought] Completely misunderstood.

[Reporter] Was there any influence of the Western mass media about that statement?
[Cetin] No. Well, actually the statement was not in its orginal form, I think. After the....

[Reporter, interrupting] What was his statement, Sir?
[Cetin] The statement, what he said.... [changes thought] Well, this is what he said that Turkey is building a dam on the river, and because of that we are regulating the water. For example, before the dams, during the summer normally the river water flow will be between 200 and 250 cubic meters per second. Now we are giving around 500 cubic meters per second. We are giving more, but by more he did not mean that we are going to cut the water. We cannot cut the water, and he said we are giving more, which is being misunderstood that Turkey is going to cut the water. Now we are giving more. We are building the dams, and we are giving more. And of course, when he said the water is coming from inside Turkey, of course, and that it is crossing the border to our neighbor—and of course, we have to use the water but we are not going to give any harm to our neighbors—and I think there is no reason that our neighbors should be worried about it.

[Reporter] Well, some people, or some circles, are interested in creating problems between Syria, Turkey, and between countries. That is their job.
[Cetin] That is true. We must accept that. Of course, everybody in [words indistinct] in many circles that would not like to see that we have good relations. But let us not be affected by that. But wanting to be very clear, I think the way to deal with this problem is dialogue, direct dialogue, cooperation, and good neighborliness. We should not actually make our program or our policy according to, well, just to the media or other channels. Of course, media is important, but we have to create a direct dialogue, direct contact. If we would have direct contact right after this thing, we would realize that this is misunderstanding. And of course, we agreed yesterday with my close friend Faruq al-Shar' that we must have closer contact. And whenever we see that something is going wrong, we must contact directly and talk directly and try to understand each other.

[Reporter] So the agreement of 1987 is still quite effective?
[Cetin] Exactly, exactly.

[Reporter] Okay. My other point is related to Turkey. I need to ask you some questions about Turkey itself. Tell me something about the geopolitics of Turkey. Is anything....
[Cetin, interrupting] Well, as you know, the geopolitical situation of Turkey now is much more important than before. During the cold war we had two blocs. Turkey was the corner of the NATO, and the situation was much more clear. Now of course, there are regions full of instabilities. There are regions that are full of problems, like Caucasus, Balkans, and of course, historically, the Middle East. Turkey now is the center of these regions. When you talk about the Caucasus, Turkey is the part of the Caucasus and also the center in that region. And now of course we know that the Balkans are full of problems, the situation in Yugoslavia, in former Yugoslavia. And Turkey is the part of Balkan countries, the Balkan region. And of course the former Soviet Union, the new republics of the former Soviet Union. We now have new republics, independent states. With some of them Turkey has historical, cultural, linguistic, and religious ties. And of course if you look at what is going on around the world—in Caucasus, in the Balkans, in the Middle East—Turkey, geopolitically, became very, very important and the center of this problem, the center of this region. And I think it is chance and luck for the world to have a country like Turkey, because Turkey is the country for stability, for the peace in this region.

[Reporter] Mentioning peace, what is Turkey's view and position towards peace in the Middle East, and what is happening?
[Cetin] It is very clear, and I think we do not have any disagreement with Syria. I think Israel has to withdraw from occupied territory, including Golan. Without withdrawing from the territories, without accepting the right of Palestinians, including to establish independent state, it will not be possible to have real peace in the Middle East. In that sense, we have very closer and almost the same view with the Syrian Government, and we will cooperate on this. But the Middle East peace process is a good step, a good beginning. But the so many problems have to be solved in order to reach the peace.

[Reporter] For decades contacts between Arab and Turkey were quite limited, but recently, these contacts have strengthened. Now, what does Turkey aspire for relations with Arabs, especially Syria?
[Cetin] Well, the Arabs are our brothers. Some of them our neighbors. With some of them we have had very historical ties, like Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and other countries. And, of course, our relations with Arab states have always been very good. I think we must see the unity among the Arab states, and Turkey is contributing to that. And Turkey, as a member of the Islamic conference, is doing its best to extend relations with the Muslim countries, our Arab brothers.

[Reporter] You are leaving Syria now. What impression are you leaving with, and what have you achieved in this visit?
[Cetin] Well, actually, this is my first visit to your beautiful country. When I came, I saw that there was some misunderstanding related with some subjects. And I think we did understand each other very well, and we have seen that there are no problems between Turkey and Syria. For Syria, the security of Turkey is very important, and for all other reasons, I think we have reached an agreement. I am going back full of optimism.

[Reporter] Now, to a Syrian, just watching us out there and hearing that statement that we started our conversation with, that Turkey would do something, and, you know the exaggeration, Turkey would cut the waters. What would you say to that Syrian who starts thinking about water being cut off?
[Cetin] Well, the water will not be cut off. And Syria is our brother, our neighbor, and our good neighbor. I think Turkey and Syria are two important countries in this region. The two countries will have better relations, and we will not give any reasons for concern as far as water is at issue.

[Reporter] Mr. Hikmet Cetin, foreign minister of Turkey, thank you very much for being with us.
[Cetin] I thank very much, and my best wishes to all our Syrian brothers and our good neighbor.

Departs 3 Aug; Statement Issued

JN0308093592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Official talks between Syria, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Turkey, led by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, were concluded in Damascus today.

The joint statement that was issued at the end of the visit stressed that the talks between the Syrian and Turkish sides were held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality, and cooperation. The statement also stressed the

need to bolster and promote them in harmony with the historical relations, good neighborliness, and in the interests of the two friendly countries.

The statement noted that the talks dealt with the recent comments about the water issue and that it was confirmed that these statements were baseless.

The two sides affirmed their adherence to the joint economic and technical cooperation that was signed in Damascus on 17 July 1987, particularly the clause related to water and the Turkish side's commitment to releasing more than 500 cubic meters of Euphrates water to Syria.

Al-Shar' and Cetin held a joint news conference today, at which al-Shar' said that Mr. Cetin's talks in Syria were successful and fruitful. He noted that the talks dealt with the relations between the two neighbors, Syria and Turkey and were crowned with Mr. Cetin's meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad last night. He said that both sides confirmed their sincere and fraternal commitment to the agreement signed between them, which reflects positively on the interests of the Turkish and Syrian peoples and on stability and security in this region of the world.

Al-Shar' added that Mr. Cetin stressed his country's commitment to the text of the agreement signed between the two countries in 1987 regarding water and Turkey's pledge to release to Syria, through the Euphrates, more than 500 cubic meters per second. He said that the president expressed his satisfaction with these Turkish assurances, particularly in light of the distorted statements attributed to Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

Cetin left Damascus today following a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; senior Foreign Ministry officials; the Syrian ambassador in Ankara; the Turkish ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

Afghanistan

20 Injured in Rocket Attack on Kabul 2 Aug

BK0208081792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Kabul, Aug 2 (AFP)—At least 20 people were injured in rocket attacks early Sunday in areas near the Kabul airport, hospital sources and officials said here.

Some 12 surface missiles landed around the airport in the northeast of the Afghan capital while three more fell on the residential area of Chahar Qal'eh, destroying a house, residents said.

A defence ministry official said the rockets were fired by hardline Hezb-e-Eslami fighters against positions held by the Uzbek forces of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

A Hezb official denied they had fired the rockets, saying the shells came from an area outside their control.

Doctors of two Kabul hospitals said they had treated 20 injured people of whom five were seriously wounded in the attacks, which began around 6:00 A.M. (0130 GMT).

No deaths were reported and there was little damage to the airport, which remained open Sunday.

Uzbek fighters returned fire, according to an officer, who said the fighting was continuing intermittently at 11:30 A.M.

Kabul has been quiet since fierce fighting between two rival mojahedin groups ended 12 days ago but tensions remain with Hezb-e-Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar demanding the removal of the powerful Uzbek troops from the capital.

The Uzbeks, who are holding vital areas of the city including the airport, have refused to leave, saying they are not part of the Defence Ministry forces and will go only if the interim mojahedin government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani orders them out.

'Severe' Shelling Described

LD0208113692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Since this morning, Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, has been under severe rocket and artillery fire and, on average, the city is shaken by the impact of heavy weapons fire once every minute. According to the report of the Voice and Vision's correspondent in Kabul, attacks are severe in the vicinity of the airport. So far, two passenger planes have come under mortar shelling, and all passenger flights have been canceled due to the continuing attacks. The report also states: The severe shelling of Kabul has left dozens killed or wounded so far and has created a disturbed situation in the city.

Hezb-e Eslami Denies Responsibility

LD0208125792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The latest report from Kabul states that, as a result of rocket attacks on the Afghan capital, at least 20 people have been injured so far. Afghan Defense Ministry sources are saying that the rockets were fired by the mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami against the positions of the Uzbek forces under the leadership of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. A Hezb-e Eslami spokesman has rejected this accusation and said: The rockets were fired from an area outside the Hezb-e Eslami's control.

'Relative' Calm in Kabul

LD0208171792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Relative calm was restored this afternoon to the city of Kabul, which had been subjected to heavy shelling and rocket attacks by Hekmatyar's forces since this morning. According to our correspondent in Kabul, the city has been at a standstill since this morning and nearly all people have evacuated the city.

According to the report, the interim Afghan Government, commanders, and the mojahedin based in Kabul have issued separate circulars severely condemning the attacks by Hekmatyar's forces and extending sympathy toward the victims' families. The circulars called on Hekmatyar and his forces to halt their attacks against residential areas, thus avoiding further killing of innocent people.

This morning's attacks on Kabul by Hezb-e Eslami forces have left dozens of people dead and hundreds injured.

Pakistan Premier Cancels Trip

LD0208173492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The planned trip of Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Kabul, scheduled for today, has been canceled.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defense minister of the interim government of Afghanistan told reporters: The reason why the trip was canceled was the eruption of fresh clashes in Kabul.

Hekmatyar Meets Provincial Officials

LD0208140192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto 0830 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Yesterday, 1 August, Brother Hekmatyar, mujahed amir of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, received some ulema and officials of the southwestern zone at a mojahedin base near Kabul. Welcoming them, Brother

Hekmatyar, mojahed amir of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, furnished them with information on the current affairs of the country. He said: No one's life and property is safe in Kabul. Even now, the remnants of the previous regime work in sensitive government departments, and generals and high-ranking officers of the previous regime are appointed in the Ministries of Defense and Security. The cause of the currrent chaos in Kabul is the very remnants of the communist regime who, as in the past, threaten the honor of the people.

Mojahed Brother Hekmatyar added: Three months have passed since the fall of the communist regime. The Islamic government of Kabul has not been able to restore security in Kabul yet, let alone to exercise its control in all provinces of the country. The mojahed amir of Hezb-e Eslami said: Last week, thousands of armed people were flown to Kabul from abroad without the issue being discussed in the Jehadi Council. He added that first-rate defensive preparations were made in Kabul, but when the president and minister of defense of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan were asked who ordered it, they expressed ignorance. Brother Hekmatyar said: God willing, the present painful situation in Kabul will cease to exist, and an elected Islamic government will be set up as wished for by the mojahedin.

The report adds that among the people received were esteemed Karimollah, head of a religious school; esteemed Lalako, head of Dar-al-Efta; Mawlawi Mohammad Saber, head of judiciary; esteemed Abdol 'Aziz, head of Education of Southwestern Zone; esteemed Haji Ahmad Agha, head of Jehad in Farak Province; and Ali Ahmad Momenyar. The report adds that during the meeting talks were conducted on the political, military, social, and security role of Hezb-e Eslami. The esteemed ulema and officials announced their support for the righteous stand of Hezb-e Eslami and said: We will not lay down our weapons before the remants of the communist regime and the enemies of the Afghan people until an Islamic, independent, and elected government, as wished for by the mojahedin, is installed.

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1630 GMT on 2 August reports: "According to a report relayed to us by IRNA, Hekmatyar's party has threatened to withdraw from Rabbani's government if the militia do not leave Kabul. This threat by Hekmatyar's party, which was announced by the spokesman of Afghan Premier 'Abdol Sabor Farid last night, was issued in the wake of another threat of an attack against Kabul by that party. The spokeman of the Afghan premier said last night that the current security situation in Kabul is very bad, with a very high possibility of a war breaking out."]

Surrender, Trial of Najibollah Under Negotiation

LD0308081892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0130 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The Kabul government is currently negotiating the surrender and trial of Najib with the officials of the UN office in Kabul.

According to the Central News Unit from Islamabad, Borhanoddin Rabbani, the interim president of the Afghan mojahedin government of Afghanistan, referred to the former Afghan president as a criminal and called for his trial.

It is said that Najib has sought sanctuary at the UN office in Kabul. However, there has been no official confirmation of this report. Incoming reports indicate that UN officials in Kabul have undertaken more security measures in the vicinity of the UN office of that city.

Jalalabad Administration Opposes Kabul Government

BK0108131692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 1 (AFP)—The administration in the eastern Afghanistan city of Jalalabad has decided to withdraw support to the interim government in Kabul for sharing power with former communist elements, a top mojahedin leader said.

"Support to the present government in Kabul would amount to committing treachery with the blood of Afghan martyrs and violating Islamic teachings," said Mohammad Asef, an important commander of the garrison city and member of Jalalabad's ruling Shura (consultative council).

In an interview with the Peshawar-based pro-mojahedin AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) released Saturday, Asef vehemently attacked the government headed by Borhanoddin Rabbani for keeping what he called the largely undisciplined Uzbek militia of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam in Kabul. He also lashed out at the government for retaining officers belonging to the Khalq and Parcham factions of the now disintegrated Communist Party of ousted President Najibollah.

"We cannot betray the aspirations of widows and orphans by supporting the government backed by Khalqis, Parchamis and militia troops," Asef said, adding that the Shura had decided not to support the present government, AIP said.

Observers said the statement could be a setback for the interim government and a prelude to an ultimate showdown in Kabul.

Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province, is run by the multi-party Shura, comprising leaders and guerrilla commanders from all mojahedin factions. Headed by Commander 'Abdol Qadir of the Hezb-e-Eslami faction of fundamentalist leader Yunes Khales, it has been governing the province since the fall of Jalalabad in April, when the Soviet-installed regime was tottering. Khales himself was in Kabul last week and sources in his party said he was "unhappy" over the involvement of former communist officers in the interim government.

The toughly worded statement also lent support to hardline mojahedin leader Golbo:din Hekmatyar, who has refused to enter Kabul until it was purged of his rival

Dostam's troops. Hekmatyar's men, entrenched south of Kabul, have repeatedly clashed with Dostam forces, resulting in casualties, although Prime Minister 'Abdol Sabur is from his party.

The Uzbek general had switched loyalties in March and sided with Rabbani's defence minister and an important general of his Jam'iyat-e-Eslami, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, which spelled the fall of the Najibollah regime.

The general, claiming the command of more than 100,000 tough Uzbek fighters, is now an important coalition partner of Mas'ud, who was reluctant to send back the militia to their base in the north until he has formed a police force or reorganized the decimated regular army. Many Afghan observers believe the pullout could weaken Mas'ud's hold on Kabul. But the militia, manning the security of vital installations such as the airport, radio and television stations, has become an apple of discord among the ruling coalition in Kabul.

Commander 'Abdol Haq, who is also brother of Nangarhar's Governor Qadir, has already refused to become Kabul's security commander, blaming the presence of armed groups and militia troops for continued lawlessness in the unpoliced city.

Faction Pulls Out of Ruling Council

BK0208125892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 2 (AFP)—An influential fundamentalist leader Yunes Khales, Sunday withdrew from Afghanistan's ruling Leadership Council, blaming the interim president for violating a transition formula and patronising former communists.

In a statement released by the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) Khalis said he had decided to pull his Hezb-e-Eslami faction out of the decision-making leadership council which comprises the heads of all parties.

"Whatever is happening in Kabul today is against Islam and the objectives of the Jehad (holy war)," he said, adding his party did not wish to join the "sinister game."

The announcement came soon after his week-long visit to Kabul where he met with interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, both of whom belong to the Jamiat-e-Eslami faction.

"Kabul is devoid of peace, because the Interior Ministry is powerless and everything is under the control of Defence Ministry," he said in a statement, adding the Defence Ministry was dominated by former officers of the ousted regime and communist militia.

"All key posts are held by the communists who spilled the blood of innocent Afghans for 14 years," Khalis said.

He also blamed Rabbani for violating the April 24 Peshawar accord under which power was transfered to the mojahedin government four days later.

Rabbani had also brought the Shiite Moslem Hezb-e-Wahdat faction into the Leadership Council in flagrant violation of the accord which says all major decisions, like the inclusion of the pro-Iran Wahdat, should be taken by the council as a whole.

Khales and some other fundamentalist leaders are opposed to a 25 percent share of power demanded by the Wahdat Party, saying the minority Shiite Moslems comprise no more than 10 percent of Afghanistan's population.

In another development Public Health Minister Najibollah Mojaddedi resigned accusing both Mas'ud and Rabbani of unnecessary interference in his ministerial work.

Mojaddedi is the son of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, who served as interim president for two months after an Islamic government was installed in Kabul on April 28.

In a statement in the bordering Pakistani city of Peshawar on Sunday, Mojaddedi said the decision to quit the government was for personal reasons and that links to the National Liberation Front of Afghanistan had nothing to do with his move.

Earlier Saturday, the administration in eastern Afghanistan's Jalalabad city decided to withdraw support for Rabbani's interim government.

Accusing the government of sharing power with former communist elements, Mohammad Asif, an important commander of the garrison city and member of the Jalalabad's ruling Shura (consultative council), attacked the government for keeping General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam's Uzbek militia in Kabul.

"Support for the present government in Kabul will amount to committing treachery with the blood of Afghan martyrs, and violating Islamic teachings," Asif said, adding that "we can not betray the aspirations of widows and orphans by supporting the government backed by Khalis, Parchamis and militia troops."

Asif said the Shura had decided not to support the present government.

Jalalabad, capital of Ningarhar Province, is the third largest Afghan city run by the multi-party Shura, which is comprised of leaders and guerrilla commanders from all mojahedin factions. Khalis himself commands considerable influence in Ningarhar, whose governor 'Abdol Qadeer belongs to his Hezb-e-Eslami faction. His decision could be another blow to the interim government within two days.

Hardline mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has already refused to enter Kabul until it was purged of former communist militia troops.

Hekmatyar's men, entrenched in southern Kabul, have repeatedly clashed with Uzbek forces.

Health Minister Resigns Over 'Interference'

LD0208174392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Afghanistan Public Health Minister Najibollah Mojaddedi has resigned. He is the son of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, former head of Afghanistan's interim government, and his resignation was apparently a protest at the interference of some officials in the affairs of the Ministry of Health.

According to the JANG newspaper today, published in Rawalpindi, the staff of the Ministry of Health is being relocated without consultation with Mojaddedi, and groups of men from the Ministry of Defense are stationed in his ministry's offices.

Car Bomb Kills Senior Security Official

NC0108173192 Paris AFP in English 1709 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Kabul, Aug 1 (AFP)—A car bomb went off in central Kabul on Saturday killing Major General Gholam Rasul Parwani, a senior national security official, and his three bodyguards, state-run television reported.

Parwani, who had served under former president Najibollah's communist government, was appointed deputy chairman of the National Security Department of military affairs after the mojahedin took power in Kabul in Arpil.

He and his three bodyguards were all traveling in the same car when the bomb exploded. The blast was the first car bomb since the mojahedin assumed power.

The broadcast did not say who was responsible for the explosion, but observers said the bomb might have been planted by elements opposed to the presence of figures connected with the former regime in the interim government. Sources said Parwani had belonged to the Parcham faction of Najibollah's Watan (homeland) Party, now outlawed in Afghanistan.

On Thursday, General Baba Jan, associated with the KHAD secret police which existed in the early days of former President Babrak Karmal after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, escaped an attempt on his life. Sources said unidentified assailants opened fire on his car killing his chauffeur. Baba Jan is held responsible by many mojahedin for atrocities committed by his KGB-style police.

Earlier in the week, unknown gunners riddled with bullets 'Abdol Ahad Wolasi, a senior official at the Foreign Ministry, on way to his office. Wolasi, a former governor of Ghazni province, had also served as ambassador to Bangladesh and Germany. His murder was widely believed to be an act of vengeance.

'Abdol Karim Shadan, chief of the Afghan Supreme Court, was shot dead a week after mojahedin took over Kabul for sentencing anti-communist guerrillas during the Najibullah regime.

National Security Ministry Changed to Directorate

LD0108181292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The press office of the Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan told BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY: By decree of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Leadership Council of Afghanistan and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the organizational structure of the Ministry of State Security has been changed to General Directorate of National Security at a level higher than state employees' grade, as an independent organ connected to the office of the presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. By a separate decree, the appointment of esteemed Shahim, son of esteemed Mawlawi Abdol Matin, has been approved as general director of national security.

'Remnants' of Former Regime Still in Position

LD3107202492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The major culprits for the insecurity in Kabul city and a factor for forcing the people to leave Kabul with their belongings to seek shelter in other secured places, are those anti-Islam and anti-human remnants of the past atheist regime who began their animosity toward the country and people 14 years ago. During this period they have been plundering our nation's material and immaterial wealth in such a cruel manner that it causes embarrassment to anyone even to point it out. [passage omitted]

Referring to the ongoing chaotic situation in Kabul the political commentator of the Radio Message of Freedom in a part of his commentary says the following:

The existing government in Kabul under the name of a mojahedin government must embark on a daring action against such lawlessness and aggressions and begin, as soon as possible, to form a regular Islamic force and start speedy steps to bring security to the insecure city of Kabul; and to stop the propaganda of those enemies who say that the mojahedin are incapable of bringing peace and security in the country or of working out a program for the progress of the country. For this reason the remnants of the past regime are still carrying out official government duties in the government departments. [passage omitted]

Obviously the mojahedin enjoy the upper hand both in military and political spheres: Then why is there still a need to keep in place the remnants of the past atheist and notorious regime? Does the present head of the transitional Islamic government see himself so weak and feeble that he can find no other way but to collaborate with the armed units of the toppled regime? It is not proper for the present Islamic transitional government to seek assistance from such useless objects or to construct a sand dam against the bloodstream of the martyrs. Because no one is able to divert the flow of the martyrs' bloodstream or stop its flow.

Hekmatyar: War 'Inevitable' Without Elections

BK0108115792 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 Aug 92 p 11

[Text] Peshawar—Hezb-e-Eslami Afghanistan [HEA] of Golboddin Hekmatyar Friday said that war in Afghanistan was inevitable if elections are not held for the establishement of an elected Islamic government to put an end to what he described as traumatic situation prevailing in Afghanistan.

An HEA communique released from its headquarters in Charasyab district in on Friday alleged that those who wanted to reach the corridor of power through "back door politics" were trying to block the path of elections and bringing forth the proposal of Hal-o-Aqad Shoora to deceive the people and deny them the right of franchise.

It said that only such a shoora would be called a shura' of Hal-o-Aqad which was elected by the people. An unelected shura' would never enjoy the confidence or support of the masses and would not be accepted in any shape, the communique said.

The HEA communique charged that those who feared defeat in the elections were trying to evade polls and were trying to block the path to democracy on various pretexts.

It said that so long as war-like situation prvailed in the country, the Mojahedin should remain alert not only for the defence but also for offensive operations. The communique said that if the Mojahedin organisation keep silent at this juncture it would tantamount to total surrender.

The communique said that those who were defending "the criminal Uzbek and Turkoman militia were giving them a legal cover for their crimes of against the nation" and stressed that they could never be made to lead the people of Afghanistan.

It said that the people of Afghanistan were aware of the crime committed by such "anti Afghan elements and liars".

India

Pakistan Accused of 'Armed Activity' in Kashmir

BK0208155492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi a short while ago that there has been an increase in armed activity by Pakistan along some portions of the Line of Control in Kashmir over the last two days. India's director general for military operations has been in touch with his Pakistani counterpart over this issue to normalize the situation.

The spokesman said the armed activity is surprising when the foreign secretaries of the two countries are to meet within a fortnight to discuss steps to reduce tension. He expressed the hope that this activity on the part of Pakistan will stop immediately.

'Unified Security Command' Urged for Kashmir

BK0208081092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The idea of setting up a unified security command in Jammu and Kashmir has been mooted by some experts in view of the reported influx of infiltrators from Pakistan and the consequent deterioration in the security situation in the state. The experts feel that there is an urgent need for such a command under the state governor so that the security forces could act in cohesion and would be accountable. They also say that there should be sustained pressure mounted on the militants and a clear-cut task given to the security forces and no contradictory signals should be given by the authorities.

Rao Sees 'Perceptible Change' in Punjab

BK0208055892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The prime minister has called for a new agenda of peace and unity for the country. Addressing a mammoth public meeting in Vishakhapatnam yesterday evening, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao said that this is absolutely necessary for the next three or four years if the country is to overcome its difficulties. He appealed to people not to give credence to attempts to exploit any issue for political gains. Mr. Rao cautioned any build up of tension will shake the confidence of foreign investors in the country, saying that some of them are still adopting a wait and watch policy.

He sought the people's cooperation in effectively implementing the revamped public distribution system which is now linked to the Jawahar Rosgar Yojna [Employment Plan].

On Punjab, the prime minister expressed satisfaction at the efforts of the Beant Singh government to build a close rapport with the public. He said there is a perceptible

improvement in the ground situation and the people are coming forward to help the state government in curbing terrorism.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said it is too early to set any date for elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The prime minister also distributed economic assets worth 100 million rupees to more than 10,000 families belonging to the weaker sections and gave away land pattas [title deeds] to about 1,690 landless families.

Security Arrangements Made for Punjab Strike

BK0308032292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] In Punjab, elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure normalcy in view of the two-day bundh [strike] call by the Akali Dal-Mann group against alleged police repression. The chief secretary, Mr. A.S. Chadha, told our Chandigarh correspondent this morning that rail and road traffic has been normal. Educational institutions are open and the supply of essential commodities is not affected.

Meanwhile, in the state, three terrorists were killed in two separate incidents since yesterday evening. An official spoksman said one terrorist was killed in an encounter in Sarhalli area of Amritisar District. One security jawan [soldiers] also died. The encounter was still going on in the area when reports last came in.

Minister Demands UN Security Council Expansion

BK0108093092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has stressed the need for a comprehensive global security system which can provide a feeling of enhanced security to every country. Inaugurating an international conference on global security in New Delhi today, he said that there is a greater need for democratization of international relations. The minister said as the membership of the United Nations has trebled since its inception, the size of the Security Council must not remain constant. He said that the Security Council should be expanded to include nations whose contributions to global peace are undoubted.

Iran

Yazdi Sermon Focuses on Propagation of Virtue

LD3107143192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Second Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, chief of the Judiciary Branch, in Tehran on 31 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] All of us have heard the remarks of the esteemed leader. Two of his recent speeches were of special value. After his first speech, which focused on the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice, all the bodies, institutions and organizations announced their support. [passage omitted] There were certain interpretations of the esteemed leader's remarks. Some of them were mild, others wrong. Some were the source of a number of imaginary beliefs and rumors. Fortunately, in his second speech to the a gathering of ulema and clerics, he clarified the issue. [passage omitted]

There are a few hooligans, a few highwaymen, in a corner of our country. They cause trouble once in a while. When we look at the issue deeply, we see several elements who are there to confront them, God forbid, they are themselves corrupted. [sentence as heard] I have spoken about this issue to the competent authorities. I am speaking generally from this forum. The security of the roads is established through propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice. What does this mean? This means the highway police, the gendarmerie, the Law Enforcement Forces, all those involved in the safety and security of the roads, they must not become friendly with the smugglers. They must not get to know them. They must not let anyone off if a crime has been committed. They must not differentiate between their friends and those they do not know. The system must confront them if it has become clear that they had limited their response. [Crowd chants: God is Great! Khamene'i is the Leader! Death to all those who oppose the Guardianship of the Supreme Jurisconsult! Death to Israel! Death to America! Death to Saddam! Death to the Hypocrites!]

Propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice render all businesses, earnings and professions, religiously legal [halal]. Extortion, fraud, bribery, selling at extortionate prices and divesting people of their rights are all illegal acts [monkarat] which will be stemmed, making all earnings lawful. It would be apt to make a remark here: Brothers! sisters! I do not have the exact statistics, but when around 5 million of the population who are civil servants—who work for the system and are paid by the system—arrive at work late and leave work early—even assuming they do their work correctly—then isn't their lifestyle and their income unlawful? You, honorable minister! Deputy minister! Office manager! When there is no administrative discipline at your work place, is it not sinful that when the time comes to report the violator you stop short of reporting your friend, but report those who are doing their job right? When the office disicpline is not observed and people come and go as they please, wasting on average 5 million hours of people's time, in other words, violating people's rights, is this not sinful? Should not these unlawful acts be stopped? Wouldn't it be unlawful if we had experts in our administration, in our hezbollah, among our hezbollahis, but instead you gave the work to the nonexpert because he was your cousin, friend or collegue? Wouldn't it be sinful if on attaining a position you seek to find jobs for your

relatives and friends, but leave the expert and the committed without a job? Wouldn't it be sinful if you gave technical work to the nonexpert, hence creating problems for the system and the government.

Sin is not limited to some women in some street in Tehran who happen to have a few strands of their hair showing. I am not saying that is right. That is not right, either. It is a sin which should be stopped, but she is not the only sinner. That is what I am saying and that is what His Eminence the leader has said.

Careless use of public assets, failure to observe regulations in the use of public assets and doing as one pleases are all vices which must be prevented. As the leader said in his statement, if one indulges in an easy life and abuses public assets, that would be a vice. Isn't it?

Propagating virtue and preventing vice is the edict through which all incomes are legitimated and all usurped rights restored; through it all the country will be built. [passage omitted]

When we say that experts, of course, committed experts, must be used for the country's affairs, this is in line with the propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice. [passage omitted]

In dealing with enemies we must also observe justice. We must deal with our enemies in a principled and humane way. It is wrong to hit your adversary so hard that he may die simply because there is enmity between you. That is how the government becomes right. That is, the propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice has a very wide application in our lives. [passage omitted]

We all know that there are three stages in the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice. First, there is the phase in which your tongue is used. Well, according to the saying, the first stage is the heart. What does it mean? It means that a Muslim must truly be unhappy in his heart when he sees a vice being committed. When he sees a lady in a north Tehran street who does not observe the Islamic rules and ignores public decency norms then he must at least feel unhappy. He must feel uneasy in his own heart. Otherwise, gradual indifference will set into his heart and spread to society. In that case, those women would take advantage—they may gradually push back their headscarves; they may even take them off and go as far as shortening their sleeves and their skirts. They may even take off their stockings. They may do anything they like. They may think that is what freedom is all about.

That is not the case. Ours is an Islamic country. Ours is an Islamic government. Islam is the ruler here. The people lost their lives, gave everything they had only because they wanted Islam. So Islamic rules must hold sway in our country. [passage omitted: repetitive]

How can we do it ? [chants, slogans] Please do not interrupt. Time is short and I have several other topics to talk about. There is the prayer we must give. How can we prevent others from vices. The saying says that first there is one's heart, then there is the tongue. It means that we—anyone among us—must first of all convey our dislike to the other party by some sort of hint. Then we can use our tongue—it is our duty to inform him by word of mouth. Only then, in the third phase, we must resort to action. [passage omitted: Arabic verse]

As to the action phase, as His Eminence the leader has already said in his speech—note that I do not have the time to quote him precisely—in propagating virtue and preventing vice, which is the duty of all, every layer of the society must distinguish its own precise position. That is, as the official in charge of the country's judiciary I have my own particular duties here, while the honorable interior minister, in his capacity as the minister of the interior in charge of the security force, has a different function. [passage omitted]

These duties cannot be done in a haphazard way. We need rules and regulations. We need method of operation and so forth. I can only say briefly that luckily we have held numerous meetings with concerned officials. After repeated debates we have now drafted a handbook in about 11 pages. Some amendments have been effected to it as well. Then it will be officially released to those in charge. Those forces who are charged with implementation of this handbook must do so accordingly. [passage omitted]

I will deal with my other subjects much more briefly. The brutal massacre of the Bosnia-Hercegovinian Muslims: I really wonder who can hear the latest reports—that you have heard—even if he does not believe in anything and not be moved and affected by it. I dare not repeat the crimes of the Serbs against the Muslims from this podium or reiterate what was recently reported by a Western correspondent in a publication—parts of which were reported in our own media. It is really astonishing. The international organizations: the United Nations, the Security Council and those who brag of supporting human rights, what are they talking about? All their sessions, whether in Geneva, London or elsewhere in Europe have all heard about this and know about this. All those didn't lead anywhere and nothing was done. How is it that in the Persian Gulf crisis, in confronting Iraq, even in one of the confrontation issues with Iraq concerning, for example, its agriculture ministry, the confrontation can be severe and serious, but there, where innocent Muslims are being killed in such a way day and night—with the Serbs' evil objectives—no one utters a word. I really don't know what the world's Muslims have to say. At the least, what does the Islamic Conference have to say? Why doesn't the Islamic Conference act? It is waiting for the United Nations to do something. Well, it's become clear that the United Nations does not want to do anything; either it cannot do anything or it does not want to.

I take this opportunity—I talked to you about this earlier—I am certain that sooner or later the world will come to this point, there is a need in the international

community for a criminal court, a criminal court, not an arbitration court to which both parties must agree, so that when crimes are committed, in the same form as we see today, for example, what the Serbs do where even the rules of war are not observed, when crimes are committed this international court can try, not arbitrate, sentence and carry out the sentence. This is because it became clear that even when the UN did its judicial work during the Persian Gulf crisis it was a political act. The essence was judicial but it was actually political. The reason for this is its double standards. If the United Nations really intended to do what it did as a judicial act, why is it that in the case of Iraqi aggression against Kuwait they acted so earnestly yet they are silent regarding all the crimes that are being committed against Muslims in that European country and are treating it with indifference? It is obvious that this is a political act, not a judicial act. I am certain that one day the world will come to this point. We are pursuing this. The existing international courts of arbitration, such as the one in The Hague, cannot do anything. Definitely a court must be set up for such ases. We hope that at least the ICO acts so that such crimes can be somewhat prevented.

Lately, in Geneva, a group, numbering some 30 individuals, held a meeting and accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of violating human rights. They have now prepared a draft that will be presented at the United Nations division in the near future.

In my capacity as the official in charge of the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I hereby announce from this sacred platform that anybody, anywhere in the world, who is willing to do so, can come over here to see for himself the files of those who have been executed in the disturbances of Mashhad and Shiraz, or those who are being executed on charges of smuggling, or in cases to do with press-related crimes. They can indeed come over here to see closely any case which they pick on. They can see by themselves that in investigating these files all the regulations have been observed, the rights of the accused have been meticulously respected—the accused have confessed, have hired lawyers, have appealed against the verdict; the cases have been referred to the Supreme Court where the appeals have been investigated. Thus, all the stages have been observed and they have been condemned according to the law. Then the verdicts have been enforced.

What nonsense it is when they say it is so and so, that the human rights are violated? Can you say it is violation of human rights when somebody who has corrupted our society, who has corrupted our system, who has been in mischief or in smuggling, if somebody like that is found guilty in a trial in legally constituted court of law? There are many Muslims being criminally murdered in Bosnia-Herecegovina and yet that is not a human rights issue? Come and see for yourselves. Why are you saying such things?

As to press-related crimes, I have announced, I have declared to the official in charge of the file, that even if it is for the first time in our regime, the case will be investigated according to the provisions of the Constitutional Law, in the presence of a jury. Only then a verdict will be given. The Constitutional Law has provisions for press-related crimes. What is this nonsense you utter even before the case has been investigated and even before a verdict has been given? You are simply under the influence of information from the enemies and the opposition. If you have anything to say, first come over here and see. Do not abuse the rights issue for the sake of politics.

I repeat: those organizations which brand themselves legalistic and who claim to support human rights are advised to keep away from political manipulations so that the sanctity of rights can be preserved. Otherwise, it would be political manipulation. [passage omitted]

We thank the Indian judiciary and government for their verdict on banning construction of a temple on the vicinity of Babari mosque. We confirm that verdict and say that both the Indian Muslims and the world Muslims who knew of the case are happy with this verdict. It is natural that it would play a role in political relations.

We are surprised to see that under these conditions, when the Quds occupying regime is dealing with the Palestinian strugglers in such a barbaric fashion, when it is hitting southern Lebanon in the way you know, Mr. So and So [Mubarak], whom everybody knows to be simply a political manipulator, is once again extending the hand of peace to the new head of the government of the occupying Quds regime. He says that in the same way as I extended my hand to the previous government to make peace, now I extend my hand again with this new government to make peace. What peace? Peace for what? Whose rights are you trading?

I am sure that that world, as it has already seen, cannot usurp the rights of an honorable nation like the Palestinians. Sooner or later the Palestinians will gain their rights. [passage omitted]

Meshkini on Consistent Application of Islamic Law

LD3107175492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1421 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in Qom on 31 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] One thing I must definitely refer to—there are many issues that I will rapidly go through—one of the most important issues is the very important speech of the eminent leader [Khamene'i on vice and virtue] some time ago. All world leaders are like this. From time to time, every few months or years and in different circumstances, they initiate a movement, deliver a speech, issue a message, to invigorate society, to ease the way for society, to do away with fatigue, to bring about new movement in society. That is how it should be. This is a sign of complete and full leadership.

He delivered certain remarks this time that were extremely beneficial; and especially so in the case of one of the topics which he raised: the reference to the issue of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice. This is, as you know, one of the highest Islamic commands. [passage omitted] It is, of course, next in importance after the issue of velayat [guardianship—meaning vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult] over society.

The issue of velayat over society is next in importance after the secondary pillars of Islam; whether that velayat is the velayat of an immaculate Imam or the velayat of a just jurisconsult [faqih-e adel]. The issue of velayat is an important issue and if this issue falls into place in society, everything will turn out well. [passage omitted] The issue of velayat is the highest issue and, as long as there is no velayat, especially an Islamic velayat, in a society, that society cannot be a correct and sound Islamic society. The issue of velayat has its own place.

On the next level, is the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice, which is one of the highest duties. [passage omitted] This issue is an important one and it requires a great deal of explanation. However, in view of the limited time available, I will just refer to several examples.

Who should carry out the propagation of duty and prohibition of vice? That is the question. And under what circumstances? [passage omitted]

The task falls especially on military and Law Enforcement Forces. The Law Enforcement Forces, may God protect them, used to keep saying that our hands have been tied and we often cannot carry out the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice. God be praised, the eminent leader gave them permission, in the course of a single speech, to sit and carefully discuss the correct implementation of this duty. But they must draw it all up correctly. Some people must set the guidelines for the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice. [passage omitted]

Even more important than anyone else, it seems that the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice is the task of the honorable judiciary. The more the judiciary in a country is strong, effective and decisive, the more that country is free from most evils. However, let me say one thing to you friends, to you gentlemen: If the judiciary wants to be effective, there are three preconditions. The first condition: All the personnel inside the judiciary should be just, they must all be effective. [passage omitted]. The judiciary's personnel must all be faithful and just, from top to bottom. That is one condition.

The second condition: The higher ranks of the judiciary must have control over the lower ranks and they must behave decisively toward them. They must know that if they themselves make mistakes, their heads too will end up hanging from the gallows.

Third: All the judiciary's personnel must apply the same principles to all the people. They must be knowledgeable, familiar with what they are doing and act with decisiveness. Otherwise, any poor and wretched fellow in any office who has committed the slightest misdemeanor, has stolen something, has committed some offense, will be publicly flogged the next day and hanged. But those big shots who have done very important things [offenses] are never either publicly flogged or hanged. That is not the way to carry out the law. Equality demands that everyone be treated the same.

It is a source of regret to me that some people in certain offices, people in sensitive posts, sometimes commit offenses, big things. Such a person is then relieved of his post, the people wait to see him flogged and hanged. But then they see, after some time, that he has turned up in another region in a similar or even higher post. This is contrary to justice. [words indistinct] Divine laws must be applied to the letter with respect to everyone. If robbery demands the cutting off of hands, remember that Imam 'Ali said, if my daughter stole a necklace, she would be the first to have her hands cut off. That is what Islam says. Islam does not say that divine commands should apply to the poor and the meek, but that big shots should be moved from one post to another, or be promoted. [crowd chants in support]

I pray to God that He should grant the strength to all our institutions to carry out their duties, so that they may fulfil their responsibilities faithfully. [passage omitted]

'Major Weaknesses' in Iranian Press Detailed

NC0208105192 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Dr. Larijani! Our Problem Is Both in Form and Content"]

[Text] Hundreds of artists, thinkers, lovers of culture, and officials of the country's mass media, in a glorious ceremony, thanked and bid farewell to Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, former minister of culture and Islamic guidance. Dr. Khatami was in charge of a ministry whose responsibilities ranged over a wide spectrum and today this heritage is left for Dr. 'Ali Larijani, whom with the bravery that he accepted this massive duty is expected to have the objective fulfilled.

Among the most important duties vested with this ministry, reference can be made to a license to set up the country's press and supervision over these. An independent assistance office is allocated to this task in the said ministry. At any rate, in this article, we do not intend to analyze the activities of Dr. Khatami in this regard; yet part of the problems could be expressed in order to serve as an illumination for Dr. Larijani and his friends.

Dr. Larijani! the country's press, especially the Iranian newspapers, have two major weaknesses which have kept us from being mentioned at the global level at an international standard which should be in keeping with the merit of our revolution. These include:

1) A format weakness: The country's press in general and the newspapers in particular are very backward in terms of the use of modern journalistic technology. It is not very difficult to make up for this matter. By allocating the needed foreign currency and purchasing modern printing houses and necessary instruments, the government can put an end to the problem gripping the country's current newspapers which are printed in a technically backward manner.

2) A content weakness: The truth is that at present the country's journalists are faced with "a social status crisis" and do not know their position and standing in the entire fabric of the society. It must, unfortunately, be acknowledged that after the victory of the revolution, officials in charge of the country's important newspapers were mainly comprised of two parts: those who desired to use the newspapers as a ladder of success to reach higher state posts or those who left posts as ministers and top officials and fell in status and turned to the press to be present in the country's politico-economic scene.

Of course, this does not include everyone, but the majority were like this. This afflicted most newspapers with self-censorship or with a kind of party and group vengeance. The truth of the matter is that the journalist in the society is faced with "a social prestige crisis." The socio-cultural experts are not willing to accept this profession as a permanent occupation. The Iranian Journalists' Society still lacks a syndicate. It is below the dignity of the Islamic Revolution of Iran that, after 13 years, permit for the set-up of the country's syndicate of journalists has not been issued under conditions when land and automobile brokers have established their powerful unions with government permits.

Dr. Larijani! This is part of the problems gripping the country's journalism at present. It is hoped that in other propitious opportunities we would be able to enumerate the other problems besetting the country's press. Looking forward to your consideration for eliminating these problems.

Need for Criticism of Law Enforcement Forces Seen

NC0108153192 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Jul 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Critical Approach—Real Need of Law Enforcement Forces"]

[Text] Yesterday, 18 July, was the anniversary of the endorsement of the bill on the merger of the various law enforcement forces into the "Law Enforcement Forces." With the esteemed revolution leader's approval, 18 July was named Law Enforcement Forces Day and yesterday, the first anniversary, was marked by special ceremonies throughout the country. Reports indicate that this universal ceremony discussed the positive results of the merger, the devotion of the Law Enforcement Forces, and the outstanding services since formation. There is no sign that the forces' strengths and weaknesses were assessed.

The Law Enforcement Forces have rendered fine services since their formation, but there are some weaknesses that cannot be neglected. They can be ignored, but this does not benefit the Law Enforcement Forces or the country.

Some may believe that press criticism of this force weakens it and is not the right thing to do and that therefore criticism should be internal and limited to remove weaknesses and to ensure that the forces' morale is not weakened.

This reasoning may be right if the force's weaknesses are, first, not shown to the people and, second, if the press magnifies the weaknesses and does not resort to a fair and realistic criticism. But if criticisms of a force that is directly involved with the people and the weaknesses and strengths of which the people see is within the framework of realities, it will not weaken it, but will strengthen it by revising activities to remove weaknesses.

The right thing to do is to seize the opportunity that the esteemed revolution leader has granted by naming a day for the Law Enforcement Forces and, as well as encouraging the devoted and committed Law Enforcement Forces, listing their positive efforts, to study their weaknesses and to sincerely strive to remove them. It is in this way, not through optimistic adulation, that we can better serve the Law Enforcement Forces and the country.

UN Asked To Declare Safe Haven in Iraqi Marshes

LD0308091492 Tehran IRNA in English 0546 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—An Iraqi opposition leader on Sunday called for declaration of a "safe haven" in the country's southern marshlands to protect the people surrounded by Iraqi armed forces there.

The leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Muhammad Baqir Hakim said that he had already raised the issue with the former Secretary General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar in Geneva to break the Baghdad government's military and economic siege against Shiites in southern Iraq since the Iraqi troops were driven out of Kuwait by the allied forces in 1990.

The 'safe haven' proposal was merely to protect the Shiites who have taken refuge in the southern marshlands and did not aim at any "separation of the region from Iraq," Hakim said. The SAIRI leader denounced the idea of secession in the country.

Speaking at a meeting with the SAIRI members Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim said, "the Iraqi regime hinders implementation of the United Nations resolutions in order to divert the world public opinion from the oppression it commits against Shiites in the south." "While Iraq was continuing its war of words with the United Nations,

people in the southern marshlands were under heavy bombings of the army without any foreign opposition," he regretted.

German Noncompletion of Bushehr Plant Scored

LD0208112492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] In an interview with reporters today, the deputy for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization's power plants criticized the German Government or the non-fulfillment of its commitments with regards to the completion of the Bushehr atomic power plant, and, describing the latest situation at that power plant, he said: After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the German Government used various pretexts, such as the imposed war and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, to avoid completing the Bushehr power plant. However, although all these problems are over and the German Government has signed two important agreements with Iran about the peaceful use of nuclear energy, it still refuses to fulfill its obligations.

He added: In view of the German Government's refusal to fulfill its obligations, what guarantees are there that it will carry out its other commitments and agreements? He said that the reason behind the non-implementation and non-completion of the project was the German Government's fear that Iran would acquire advanced technology, and added: The Bushehr power plant, despite the outcry raised throughout the world, has no military applications.

Our country's Atomic Energy Organization deputy stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran's goal in the construction of that power plant is the implementation of economic projects and the provision of water and electricity, and said: We have said again and again that the inspectors of the International Atomic Agency can be based at the power plant and the cost of their presence will be borne by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He went on to say: In view of these issues and the inspections of the Bushehr power plant by the inspectors of the International Atomic Agency, after which they expressed the opinion that it is to be used for peaceful purposes, the German Government has no pretext whatsoever any more to avoid completing the station.

Our country's Atomic Energy Organization deputy added: We will act towards the provision of electricity and the establishment of new power plants using nuclear resources, and we will hold talks with interested countries toward this end. And, at the moment, we have begun discussions with China about the establishment of new power plants.

Blacklisting of Germany Urged

LD0208093692 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday urged Iranian officials to include Germany in their 'black list' and refrain from concluding even a 'pfennigworth' contract with it because of Bonn's failure to abide by its commitments to complete Bushehr atomic power plant.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' commented on the current visit to Iran of a high-ranking delegation from the German company Siemens which is bound to complete the 7.8 billion-mark plant in the Persian Gulf province of Bushehr.

In 1976 a contract was signed between Iran's Atomic Energy Organization and the German Krafts Werck Union for the establishment of the power plant but upon the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the contractor unilaterally terminated the agreement.

"The Siemens company has so far refrained from performing its undertakings in this connection, each time resorting to unfounded pretexts. Negotiations have proven futile and the outcome has further revealed that Germans are not trustworthy and that their undertakings are not valid."

The article also criticized the trade imbalance between Tehran and Bonn and noted that in 1991 the volume of bilateral trade amounted to 8.2 billion German marks, 6.7 billion marks of which stood for Germany's exports to Iran, more that Bonn's total exports to some 22 Arab countries.

"It is not clear why we should conduct such an immense bulk of trade-industrial transactions with a country which is still imposing severe export restrictions on us."

Arguing that whether the hopes Siemens has placed in Iran would be materialized and if the past records of the German company would all be forgotten, the article noted that time will give the appropriate response.

North Korea's Kim Yong-Nam Pays Visit

Meets With Velayati

LD0208104992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Kim Yong-Nam, vice premier and the minister of foreign affairs of North Korea, this morning. The president expressed satisfaction over the growing trend of the deep and friendly relations between Iran and North Korea and said: The common views of the two countries regarding world and regional problems create suitable grounds for the further expansion of cooperation in the relations between the two countries.

The president spoke of the importance of the 10th session of the Nonaligned Movement in Jakarta saying: Member states must enrich the contents of this conference by having common policies.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his hope that the trend of unity between the two Koreas would yield positive results soon.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati.

The vice premier and foreign minister of North Korea conveyed the greetings and pleasure of the leader and prime minister of North Korea over the daily expansion of cooperation between the two countries. He referred to the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the international scene as outstanding due to the important and basic role that Iran has in the strengthening of peace and stability in the region. He said: The expansion of relations and cooperation with such a country is a source of pleasure to the leadership and people of North Korea.

The foreign minister of North Korea submitted a report on the trend of unity of the two Koreas. He thanked Iran for the particular attention it pays to this issue.

In conclusion, he stressed the need to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement on the world scene.

Confers With Nateq-Nuri

LD0208145992 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The visiting North Korean foreign minister, Kim Yong-Nam, met today with Majles speaker, Mr. Nateq-Nuri. The talks at the session revolved around matters of mutual concern. Some key international issues were also surveyed at the meeting.

Referring to the attempts by the U.S. and other arrogant powers to undermine the Nonaligned Movement, Mr. Nateq-Nuri stressed that the body should adopt stronger stances in this regard and fight off these plots. The Majles speaker further asked Pyong Yang to participate more actively in Iran's reconstruction programs.

Departs After 'Successful' Visit

LD0308092692 Tehran IRNA in English 0641 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Yong-Nam wrapped up his 4-day official visit and left Tehran Monday morning terming his visit as 'very successful.'

In an interview at the airport before departure, Kim said his talks with Iranian officials focussed on coordination of Tehran- Pyongyang views in the forthcoming summit meet of the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] to be held in Jakarta in September.

Foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who was present at the airport to see off Kim, said that the main goal of the visit to Tehran of the DPRK foreign minister was to discuss the future of the NAM and the forthcoming summit meet.

He added that in view of the fact that the Jakarta summit was the first in the wake of the recent world developments, the influential NAM members intended to present new plans for its future.

Stressing that the present political world and international situation were different from those of 45 years ago (from Yalta to the fall of the Berlin Wall), Velayati said that the present world circumstances have put international organisations such as NAM in motion.

Reminding that consultations both prior to and concurrent with the meeting among influential member countries would determine the main framework of the forthcoming summit meet, he said that Kim voiced his country's viewpoints in this respect.

It was clarified that the Tehran-Pyongyang views are harmonious on general issues to a great extent.

He added that Indian minister of state for external affairs is to visit Tehran shortly.

He stressed that international organisations such as NAM play an important role in the shaping of the new world order and that these talks are very effective in decision-makings.

Reports of Iranian Troop Deaths in Sudan Denied

LD0208131892 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug 2, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today categorically denied foreign media reports on the alleged death of some 200 Iranian soldiers in Sudan.

A spokesman for the ministry, speaking to Iran, termed these allegations as 'baseless' and stressed that no Iranian troops were based in Sudan.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Saturday quoted an Italian missionary group as saying that 200 Iranian troops had been killed last week in an attack by rebel forces in southern Sudan.

Turkey Seen Influencing Azerbaijan, Nakhichevan

NC0108133592 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 92 p 16

[Report by an unidentified KEYHAN correspondent from Nakhichevan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Turkish statesmen's spiteful efforts that started with the disintegration of the Eastern superpower have culminated in the removal of border obstacles.

By hoisting the banner of the Armenian alternative before Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan, Turkey wants to regain the power that it once enjoyed when it was an empire, this time in another form. As the first step, Turkey considers the main objective to be confronting the Islamic inclinations of the Nakhichevan people, who claim that Turkey has tried to send Armenians and Jews in the garb of Muslim missionaries to mislead public opinion, concentrating on the villages of the Muslim-inhabited autonomous republic. The Muslims in the autonomous Nakhichevan Republic describe immoral and Western television programs being broadcast of late by Turkey on Nakhichevan TV and the trampling on the people's human and Islamic values as yet another antireligious step by Turkey and they blame the Nakhichevan Government for Turkey's act. According to Nakhichevan TV officials, the people's opposition sometimes even upsets the relay of this Turkish channel. With these attempts, Turkey is trying to direct the Turkic people away from their views, traditions, and customs toward a secular view on the sole pretext of using the Turkish language, a pretext that has lost its luster in various areas. Turkey is trying to cast the Turkish-speaking and Azeri-speaking people and their varying ideological ideas in a mold of the German-trained Ataturk's poisonous ideas.

No freedom-loving human can believe this objective will be fulfilled, because every intelligent being knows that values go beyond language.

Turkey is also resorting to planned tactical steps to pressure the Muslims in Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan. One such step is the construction of a bridge in Sadrak. Despite this bridge recently being opened, the people of Nakhichevan have taught the Turkish statesmen a lesson by not stepping up an influx into Turkey.

Political experts in the region state that Turkey's construction of the bridge in Sadrak, to establish links with Nakhichevan, speaks of NATO's future military intention to spark differences in the region. And recently the Turkish Government stated that to meet the basic needs of Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan, Turkish merchants will export up to $1 million of goods to these countries. The propaganda that Turkey uses is to falsely claim that this will be in the form of gratuitous assistance. In view of the great difference in prices of these goods in Turkey and in the two republics, this step has only helped to create a black market.

With its cultural steps in Nakhichevan, Turkey wants to introduce the region's Muslims to corrupt Western culture, stupefying them with Western corruption and depriving them of everything.

To thwart Iran's peace efforts, and thinking that it can harm Iran's popularity, the United States—NATO's basis—has provoked Armenia into a conflict with Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan. And Turkey is trying to convince Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan that Iran is assisting Armenia. Unfortunately, lack of Iranian propaganda in the Muslim and neighboring countries of Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan has left Turkey free to operate as it wishes.

Lack of sufficient Iranian cultural and Islamic propaganda in these republics—Iran is the standard bearer of Islam's revival—has given Turkey—implementing U.S. policies in the region—a free hand.

The absence of political, cultural, and military planning and the chaos that people face has made the [communist] officials more hopeful that the past situation will return and the people's dissatisfaction with the current situation, the shortcomings and problems, obstructionism and bribery, and lack of supervision of affairs all prove this.

About 12 political groups are active in Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan and each accuses the other of spying for Moscow or for foreign countries. There are also conflicts between the Socialist Democratic Front led by Zertusht Alizadeh and the National Independence Front led by Etebar Mamedov.

The formation of a national power, the armed forces, which should have been one of the initial objectives after national independence in Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan, has been cast into oblivion. Political groups consider the reason for this the communist officials' obstructionism and believe that Moscow is trying, in every way, to keep the communist officials in Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan in power.

Safeguarding the borders of the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union remains the responsibility of the former Red Army; any intervention and aggression by one country against another can only be done with Moscow's support. Nakhichevan's people and officials believe that Moscow should justly distribute the military material created by the efforts of former Soviet citizens in the newly independent countries to safeguard their independence.

'Propaganda Onslaught' Against Iran, Islam Seen

NC0108155692 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
15 Jul 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Objectives of Enemy's Current Propaganda Onslaught"]

[Text] Whenever the enemy senses danger from Iran, it embarks on a propaganda onslaught and, by using the news, endeavors to tarnish Iran's image in the international community.

The enemy always initiates its news onslaught by using atrophied and rusted methods, which have clearly been proved ineffective. These methods, which have always been kept hanging over Islamic Iran's head like the "Sword of Damocles", include Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] instigation of its neighbors, economic embargoes, and the strengthening of the Zionist regime.

On this occasion, the enemy's propaganda and news onslaught has shown these very distinctive characteristics. This onslaught—initiated after the declaration of the official stance by the Islamic Majles, our president, and officials on Iran's refusal to reach compromise with the powers of world arrogance on the issue of opposition to the Zionist regime and Salman Rushdie—gained momentum in the past few days. This is because the enemy wants to intimidate Iran and to terminate the myth [as published] of the uncompromising stance of the Islamic revolution and Iran.

A short time ago, the Zionist regime's military echelons threatened Iran with an aerial attack. They claimed that Iran is seeking access to nuclear technology to produce, manufacture, and spread nuclear weapons.

When such an atmosphere prevailed and some dubious and unreliable sources endorsed the Zionist claims, the false support of the monafeqin was also declared. The United States called on the Arabs in the littoral states to enter into a military-security pact to combat Iran.

Continuing such a fruitless endeavor, some British members of parliament have again risen in support of the monafeqin and asked the UN secretary general to impose an arms embargo against Iran, while the United States continues to lobby for coordination among the regional Arab countries against Iran.

What is the enemy's objective behind whipping up such an atmosphere? Why are old prejudices being revived?

In keeping with its own appraisal, the enemy has, for quite some time, been projecting the impression that Iran is deviating from its Islamic path and is about to fall into the West's lap. Recent actions have proved such claims to be false and hollow and even now, despite the problems, Iran persists in its principled stance. These circumstances prompted the enemy to resume its efforts to whip up such an atmosphere and increase the pressure.

In view of what has been mentioned here, new circumstances have emerged, which demand a reassessment of various policies and reactions. In such circumstances, we are mistaken if we imagine that, despite our insistence on preserving the Islamic revolution's gains, the West will be willing to have cordial relations with Iran and will give us the green light. They want an Iran stripped of Islam and the revolution.

Their objective in creating such an atmosphere is to eclipse these gains and intimidate and frighten feeble individuals. For this reason, we should admit that if we move as before along the imam's line to implement the revolution leaders' wishes and to preserve the revolution's gains, the West's animosity and that of the powers of world arrogance will also continue and will never subside. This is because the West wants a transformed Iran, one bereft of all Islamic potential and one that is not powerful.

As things stand, we will not remain inert and will not deviate from our stance. The West can continue its artificial support of insolvent elements such as Rushdie and the monafeqin.

Pakistan

Minister Says Government 'Ready' To Sign NPT

BK0108113192 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 92 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, July 31—The Federal Minister for Defence Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said that Pakistan is ready to sign non-proliferation treaty (NPT) provided India does the same.

The Federal Minister was addressing the seminar on nuclear non-proliferation—regional approach, at a local hotel here to day.

He said that in the absence of such a treaty the countries of the region (South Asia) would continue to remain under constant nuclear threat.

He said the non-proliferation should be of nuclear weapons and not nuclear technology for peaceful applications. The Federal Minister said the policy of denial of technologies to the devoping countries who have crossed the technology thresholds would be very damaging for them. He said the question of nuclear non-proliferation should be studied carefully taking into account the needs of developing countries.

He said that regional approach to bringing about nuclear non-proliferation should prove to be quite helpful provided those who possess the technology and perfected it in both peaceful and weapon programmes deal with all countries of the region even-handedly.

The federal minister stressed that pressure should be exerted on the regional country which has demonstrated nuclear weapon capability through denial of advanced technologies and was intending towards further strengthening that programme.

The federal minister observed that the Indian integrated guided missile programme and the second testing of Agni—the 2500 kilometres intermediate range ballistic missile were—destabilizing the region. He also quoted the statement of state department spokesman who said "we believe that ballistic missile programmes in areas where there are chronic regional tensions undermine rather than enhancing regional security".

He said Pakistan has already made proposals to make South Asia a nuclear weapons free zone. However he said that India has been refusing to enter into a dialogue with the regional countries on non-proliferation issue, despite US attempts to persuade India to change its mind.

He said nuclear science and technology like any other science is neutral in character and now it was up to the policy planners to use it for the socio-economic uplift or destruction of mankind.

He said the peaceful use of nuclear technology for developing countries is vital in order to have socio-economic development. The federal minister maintained "our aim is to acquire the capability to design, build and operate nuclear power reactors on the basis of maximum self-reliance".

He said "we strongly that [as published] acquisition and development of modern sophisticated technology, including nuclear technology is an essential tool for achieving our goal of self-reliance". He said it is imperative for devloping countries like Pakistan to continue efforts for harnessing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

He said it was the great achievement on the part of Pakistani scientists to have kept the Karachi nuclear power plant KANUPP [Karachi Nuclear Power Project] operating till today even on passage of 18 years when Canada blocked all supplies for it.

He maintained that KANUPP is still going strong and is generating electricity.

Earlier in the first session of the seminar, the editor-in-chief of PAKISTAN OBSERVER said that the seminar will address the issue of nuclear non-proliferation in context of defence capabilities of India and Pakistan.

India, he said, has already acquired the status of a mini superpower with world recognised nuclear capabilities. "She is today a potent danger to all neighbouring countries particularly Pakistan," while Pakistan has no option but to develop its own dependable defence capabilities.

He praised President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for steadfastly upholding Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Dr. S.M. Koreshi expressed concern over the growing India-Israel- US nexus and said that it was aimed against the Muslims. He also deliberated at length on the Indians massive militarisation programme and said that these are aimed at a grandiose hegemony plan from Madagascar to the northern tip of Australia.

He also expressed concern over US acknowledgement of Indian claims over the Indian ocean and referred to the increased frequency of visits of American military officials to India.

Major-General (Retd) Rao Farman Ali said that India's expansionist nature needs no further proofs. He said that it seems that India had agreed to become an agent of US in the region while Israel is doing the same job in its region.

He said the world information media is a powerful weapon in the hands of the West and they are making its full use in launching a campaign against Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Unilateral Signing Ruled Out

BK0108072292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has emphasized the need for harnessing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He was speaking at a seminar on nuclear nonproliferation and a regional approach organized by the daily, PAKISTAN OBSERVER, in Islamabad yesterday. The defense minister said Pakistan in its keenness to make nuclear nonproliferation measures effective has already made various proposals, including making South Asia a nuclear-weapons free zone. However, India continues to be adamant in refusing to enter into a dialogue with the regional countries.

Chairing the second session of the seminar, Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, federal minister for food and agriculture, reiterated the government's commitment not to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unilaterally.

Addressing the seminar, Akram Zaki, secretary general foreign affairs, made it clear Pakistan would not compromise on its peaceful nuclear program, as it requires technological capability to ensure its socio-economic development.

Prominent speakers at the seminar, including former Foreign Secretary Agha Shahi, emphasized that Pakistan cannot be asked to give up its peaceful nuclear program as it needs to harness its energy resources.

Renewed Nuclear Research, Development Urged

BK0308073492 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Aug 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Nuclear rollback—out of the question"]

[Text] Thinking in Pakistan on the modus operandi of the country's nuclear research and development programme is that a unilateral rollback does not now mean exclusively in comparison with India's perceptions on the subject. There is no doubt that India's nuclear capability is far superior to that alleged to have been developed by this country. It is also no secret that our relations with that country have been far from amicable since the two countries attained independent status from British rule. As such, regardless of the unreasonable attitude adopted against our nuclear programme by the United States and discontinuation of arms and economic aid to Pakistan at the clamouring of hawks in the US Congress and Senate, it is imperative that we not only go ahead with our nuclear programme but step up our efforts in the research and development programme thereof. Without doubt we are justified in building a credible defence against an openly hostile immediate

neighbour, India, but the threat from that quarter is now of a secondary nature. In terms of pure terminology, India could be termed as Pakistan's enermy number two but it is Israel which has always been the main enemy.

The Zionist entity, with its paranoid enmity towards the Muslim World, is the one whose nuclear development has to be contained. More so since it remains a largely unrecognised country as against India which is a sovereign state in its own right. It boggles the mind to think that the Zionist entity can divert a shipload of nuclear ingredients to its own shores by an act of naked piracy on the high seas without a murmur from its mentor, the United States. On the other hand, the same superpower has made it a matter of international foreign policy to place as many hurdles as it can in the way of Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme. Additionally, the US has gone out of its way to encourage not only a constant buildup of conventional arms by the Zionist entity but shut both eyes to its efforts in amassing a formidable array of nuclear weapons. US peace efforts in the Middle East are provenly not aimed at securing justice for the Palestinians or curtailing Israel's depredations elsewhere in the region but at securing recognition for its Jewish protege from as many Arab and other Muslim states as possible.

It is now quite long since US economic and military aid to Pakistan was arbitrarily stopped yet we have managed to exist. In that respect, the stoppage has not deterred us from pursuing our peaceful nuclear goals and there is no reason why any similar consideration should do so in future. Pakistan and all other countries of the Muslim World have to be on constant guard against Israel for the simple reason that the track record of the Zionist entity in respect of total disregard for international boundaries speaks for itself. In view of this, nothing can be put beyond an entity whose leaders speak with two tongues. If international diplomacy means keeping other countries in a state of constant uncertainty, then Israel is a past master at the art. All the more reason, then, that Pakistan discard any ideas of any sort of a rollback in its nuclear programme. On the contrary, the imperative is to put in renewed research and development towards its successful implementation.

Sharif Discusses Nuclear-Free South Asia

BK3107060792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said the establishment of a just, nondiscriminatory and lasting nuclear nonproliferation regime in South Asia will break new grounds in all aspects of bilateral relations. In a message to a national seminar on nuclear nonproliferation and regional approach being held in Islamabad today, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said a positive response by India will strengthen the process of dialogue and cooperation, removing distrust and suspicion. He said Pakistan is committed to nuclear nonproliferation. He referred to various proposals made by Pakistan to India, the latest of which was about convening a five-nation conference for consultations on the nuclear issue. The proposal was accepted by the United States, Russia and China, but India's reaction was not positive.

The prime minister said the threat to international peace and stability lies largely in regional tensions and discords. The removal of the sources of these tensions through negotiations is an essential prerequisite for laying a foundation of lasting peace, stability and progress in the world.

U.S. Criticized Over Nuclear Role

BK0308062992 Islamabad THE NATION in English 2 Aug 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Nuclear fairplay"]

[Text] The statements of the Defence Minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, on Pakistan's nuclear capability and that of the author of the Pressler Amendment, Senator Larry Pressler, under which American aid has been denied to Pakistan on suspicion of Pakistan having built a nuclear weapon, happened to have come on the same day. The American Senator has complained that despite the ban his Amendment is supposed to imply on military aid, supplies of military hardware worth about four billion dollars have been allowed to Pakistan by the US Administraion. In its defence the US Administration has said that the Amendment does not apply to commercial sales of spares and ammunition by private parties, in which US government financing is not involved. Various reasons for keeping this particular tap open have also been cited, among which is jeopardy to 'regional security'. The failure of the US President to certify that Pakistan does not have a nuclear weapons programme does not automatically mean that Pakistan has nuclear weapons or there is more to such a programme, if any, than the one acknowledged by our Foreign Secretary sometimes back, but it does appear to be discriminatory vis-a-vis India. India has exploded a nuclear device. Pakistan has not. India has a number of unsafe guarded nuclear plants, capable of producing enough raw material for a large number of nuclear weapons. Pakistan has not. And yet the ban on military aid applies to Pakistan. Since the Pressler Amendment is Pakistan specific it does not apply to India. It is to this discrimination that Mr Shah has referred in his statement.

The US government is of course under no obligation to meet Pakistan's military needs. It is also free to observe or not observe any of its own laws in favour of any country, in this case India. But the question is that if the US has taken upon itself the role of a nuclear policeman of the world, then certain responsibilties also devolve on it. One of these responsibilities is that of fairplay in the dissemination of nuclear technology. Picking on one for any real or imagined infringement of certain self-devised rules of the game and giving a free hand to others to do whatever they like—the names of Israel and India come immediately to mind in this context—only creates the image of a highly biased and at best a whimsical

policeman. This is surely not the way to build the American dream of a New World Order. Pakistan expects fair play and in this Pakistan's expectation is not unreasonable.

Finance Minister Views Economic Performance

BK3107145792 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, has said that the economic reforms introduced by the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government will result in providing a sound economic base to the country. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the minister said while the full impact of these reforms will take time to be realized, a number of positive trends are already visible.

The indications of an improved economy include substantial increase in GDP [Gross Domestic Product] growth, investment, exports, the stock market, and foreign exchange reserves. The government has completed 20 months in office on 6th of this month. This, he said, provides an opportunity to highlight the performance of the economy during this period compared to the preceding 20 months. The 20 months of the IJI government have been truly momentus with the introduction of ambitious and far-reaching economic reforms. The minister said the exchange and payment reforms have resulted in greater and easier flow of foreign exchange. It caused a substantial increase in the foreign exchange accounts. The inflow of foreign private investment in July-March 1991-92 has been of the order of $257 million as compared to over $166 milion during the corresponding period of the previous year. He said during the tenure of the IJI government, the investment in private sector has doubled.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz said that the changes and reforms have vastly improved the country's investment climate. As a result, international financial institutions and potential investors have started taking renewed interest in Pakistan's development prospects and investment opportunities. With the action to improve law and order situation in Sindh, the investment environment would improve further. He said it is now a matter of record that both the tenures of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government in 1972-77 and 1988-90 were the lowest growth rates in the past 30 years. Against the GDP growth of 4.8 percent and 4.7 percent in 1988-89 and 1989-90, economic growth in 1990-91 and 1991-92 was 5.6 percent and 6.4 percent respectively. Even more significant was the acceleration in the growth of manufacturing sector from 4 and 5.7 percent under the PPP government to 6.3 and 7.7 percent respectively in 1990-91 and 1991-92. He said another improved achievement during our tenure is the quantum jump in investment, particularly private investment. In the last two years, private sector investment rose by at least 48 percent.

Exports in 1990-91 and 1991-92 increased by 23.7 percent and 11.2 percent respectively as against 6.2 percent and 6.3 percent in the earlier years. The foreign exchange system has been greatly liberalized by the IJI government. The level of foreign exchange reserve on 30 June 1992 was $1,022 million which is the highest level since June 1985 despite considerable import liberalization. The level of foreign exchange on 4 August 1990 was $467 million.

Joint Ministerial Commission With Iran Begins

BK0108145892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The seventh session of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Ministerial Commission began in Islamabad today. The leader of Pakistani delegation, federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, in his opening remarks said the three-day session is taking place in a changed geopolitical situation in the region. Six new Muslim states have emerged which are potentially rich in natural resources having a reasonably good political and social infrastructure. These states need moral and material help of Pakistan and Iran to sustain their economies. He emphasized the need for achieving the export target of U.S. $200 million a year from each side. The leader of the Iranian delegation, Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, expressed satisfaction over the outcome of talks which have been continuing between the delegations of the two countries.

Increasing Trade Discussed

LD0208142192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, the transportation minister, who has gone to Islamabad to attend the 7th session of Iran and Pakistan's joint economic commission, met and conferred with Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali, Pakistan's minister of state for economic and financial affairs, today. In the meeting, the expansion of cooperation and the issue of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries was discussed.

Mr. Sa'idi-Kia also met Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, the speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, around noon today. According to the Central News Unit, in the meeting the two sides described the two countries' fraternal ties as a good model for the other countries in the region and, in view of joining new members to the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, they welcomed the greatest possible expansion of ties within the organization.

Delegation Visits President

BK0208151092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Pakistan and Iran today discussed strengthening relations in various fields, including economic, trade, communication, road construction, banking and establishment of oil refinery. Minister of State for Economic Affairs Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Iranian minister for road and transport, Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, led their respective

delegations. In his opening remarks, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali described Pakistan-Iran relations as a splendid example of friendship to be followed by other countries. He said expansion of Pakistan-Iran economic cooperation would also prove beneficial to Afghanistan and the newly-independent Central Asian Muslim states. The Iranian minister said Tehran has developed pharmaceutical industry on modern lines and is ready to share its experience with Pakistan in this sector. He also offered cooperation to Pakistan in road construction.

The Iranian delegation called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad. During the meeting, matters of bilateral interest and economic ties were discussed. Regional and international situation also figured during the meeting.

The Iranian minister also called on the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, in Islamabad today. He remained with the speaker for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations.